

SUBMISSION BY SLOVENIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Views on future topics not listed in decision 4/CP.23 and on the progress of the KJWA for consideration in the report of the SBI and the SBSTA to the Conference of the Parties as per decision 4/CP.23, paragraph 4

This submission is supported by North Macedonia and Serbia.

25 October 2021

On the progress of the KJWA for consideration in the report of the SBI and the SBSTA to the COP

Considerations of the work done:

The EU welcomes the participation of representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention and observers, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism (GCF and GEF), the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, and the active engagement of observer organisations and other stakeholders in the Koronivia workshops.

The detailed consideration of the workshop reports has led to a more **constructive discussion** on agriculture than before the roadmap was established.

The workshops, expert meetings and submissions by Parties, as well as observers, of views on the six topics specified in the Koronivia decision made all the work related to agriculture already undertaken by these bodies and organisations more visible. In combination, these provide elements for a baseline of shared understanding. The consideration of issues and the identification of elements and modalities for implementation, on the six topics referred to above, have to build on this baseline.

It is of high importance for the EU to meet the requirements of farmers and to design food systems that meet people's needs within planetary boundaries.

The workshops showed a clear need for better coordination among constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanisms over climate action in agriculture. In the EU's view, agriculture and food are crucial sectors. It would be highly beneficial to improve coordination among constituted bodies under the Convention (CBs) and financial entities under

the Convention regarding their work on agriculture. Giving **recommendations** could be a way to do so.

Additionally, there is a need for coordination with relevant international institutions (FAO, WFP¹, WB², IFAD³ etc.), as well as for enhancing exchanges with other UN conventions (UNCCD and CBD).

The workshops and their reports, along with the Party and observer submissions, highlighted the need for **systemic approaches** and for identifying win-win actions, activities that offer benefits for adaptation, mitigation and food security, synergy between climate and biodiversity with a landscape approach and activities that join traditional and indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge.

Solutions are **context-specific** and should be approached in a holistic and inclusive manner to increase climate action in both adaptation and mitigation while contributing to food security and preserving carbon stocks and biodiversity.

There is a need to showcase good examples of implementation. The need for **guidelines** was highlighted, as was the need to define **non-regret options** and to promote their application. Parties would also benefit from taking into account national circumstances and local necessities, keeping in mind potential synergies and tradeoffs between different land uses.

Likewise, there is a need for enabling environments that allow institutions and financing entities to support implementation measures, including through climate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building. In order to facilitate focused and efficient support, **Parties should deliver clear messages on their needs, plans and priorities** regarding agriculture and climate change within their NDCs, NAPs and other national plans and strategies.

Among others, the KJWA identified some relevant needs to be addressed in the agricultural sector and concerning climate change, such as:

- More exchange on technical aspects and identification of existing funding opportunities and incentive schemes, tools and platforms to foster climate action around agriculture.
- Better integration of mitigation and adaptation aspects in agriculture.
- Enhance local action and regional and national coordination.
- Facilitate enabling conditions and recognise the crucial role of farmers, young people, local communities, indigenous peoples and women farmers in rural areas, since these groups are the main actors of food security.

¹ World Food Programme

² World Bank

³ International Fund for Agricultural Development

- Encourage and facilitate the participation of relevant actors in agriculture and climate change debates.
- The continued consideration and improvement of scientific and technical knowledge for promoting the sustainability of the agriculture sector, taking into account, for example, IPCC and IPBES reports.

Possible way forward and options

Any future discussion of climate change and agriculture should have a strong focus on facilitating the **implementation** of mitigation and adaptation measures in the agriculture sector, while strengthening food security, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and sharing lessons learned.

Any future work on agriculture should build on **existing structures** and existing work and experiences such as:

- The FAO, including its Committee on World Food Security
- The relevant work of UNFCCC constituted bodies (for example, KCI's work on impacts of the implementation of response measures in agriculture and land use), while avoiding the duplication of work
- The GCAA⁴ (including the regional climate weeks), and other initiatives such as the FAO NDC Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use; partnership on agriculture, the GRA⁵, CCAC, the 4per1000 initiative, and so on
- The other two Rio Conventions (UNCCD and CBD)
- Local, indigenous and traditional knowledge
- Best available science, including the findings of the IPCC sixth assessment cycles, and IPBES reports
- The outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Furthermore, any future work on agriculture and climate change should:

- help to identify existing funding opportunities and incentive schemes, as well as tools and platforms to foster climate action around agriculture, including through carbon farming initiatives⁶ and payment for environmental services;
- be used to stimulate the link between the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CDB and UNCCD) at multilateral and **national** level and further explore the application of nature-based solutions (NbS), and explore the application of agroecology, circular agriculture, sustainability of products (deforestation-free commodities) and

⁴ Global Climate Action Agenda

⁵ Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

⁶ [Carbon Farming | Climate Action \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/carbon-farming/)

regenerative agricultural approaches, and other sustainable and climate-resilient policies and measures;

- consider how to increase efforts to promote cooperation initiatives on the ground for sustainable agriculture and climate resilience, especially with a focus on local and indigenous communities, in particular rural women.

The EU has considered possible options regarding modalities for continuing the discussion on climate change and agriculture (see the Annex).

Annex:

Options for agriculture discussions post-2020

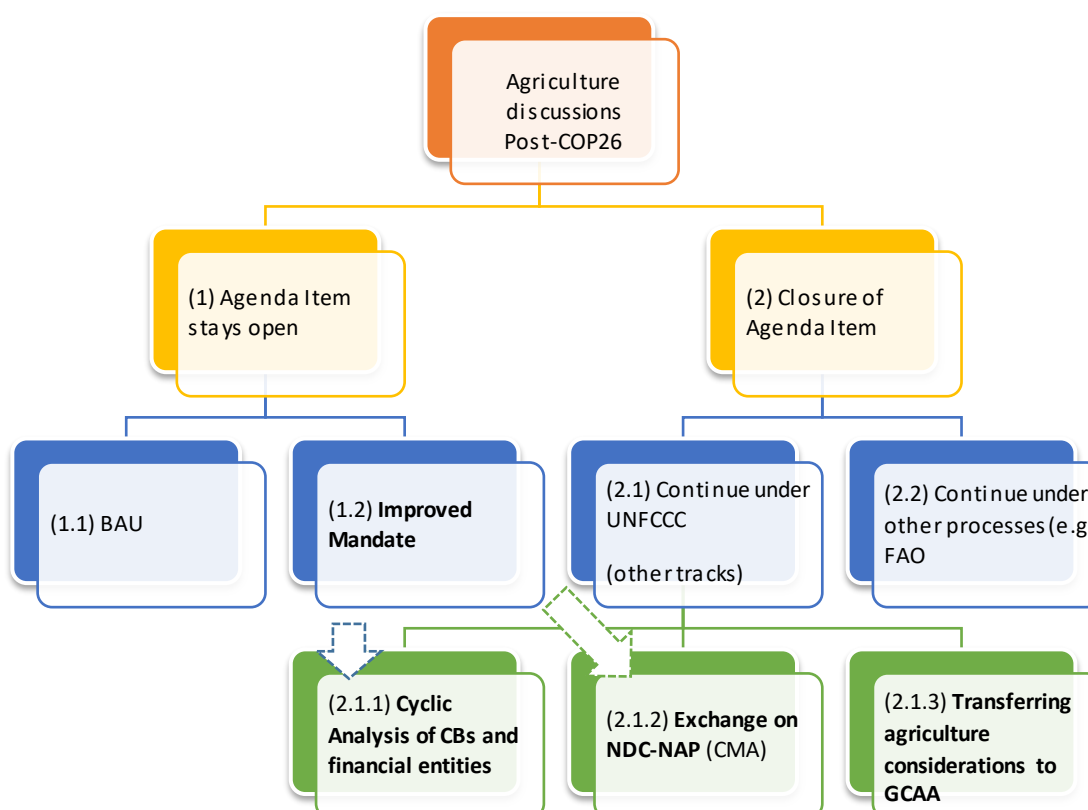


Figure 1 – Overview of KJWA options

1. Agenda Item stays open

1.1 Continuation of the Business as usual:

Continuation of the agenda-item in both SBs with a new sequence of workshops, on negotiated topics (this possibility is already foreseen in the roadmap “Report to the Conference of the Parties on the progress and outcomes of the work, including on potential future topics”) and negotiations of the report of each workshop. The questions are:

- What the subjects of the workshops would be?
- What the added value could be? How it could facilitate implementation?
- How it would avoid duplication of work?

The option will need a COP decision to define the modalities for the continuation, such as its mandate, clear feedback and clarity on how and when it concludes.

1.2 Use existing agenda item of KJWA, but with a clear mandate (about process, duration and results)

The mandate should particularly facilitate implementing climate measures in the agriculture sector while aiming to strengthen food security and sharing lessons learned. This work could take into consideration existing structures such as the FAO Thematic Working Group on agriculture, food security and land use under the NDC Partnership and the GCAA⁷. Parties could provide information and maybe recommendations for the CBs and other institutions. Food security could be one topic to focus on under a potential new mandate.

Focus: A strong focus on linkages between fighting climate change and sustainable and resilient food systems, strengthening food security, empowering rural women, biodiversity/ ecosystems restoration, just transition, a clear contribution to climate neutrality and green recovery.

The mandate under this option needs to be clearly defined, with clear timeframe, processes, feedback and clarity on how and when the mandate concludes.

This option can also include the process outlined in option 2.1.1 (Cyclic Analysis of CB and FE) and 2.1.2 (Exchange on NDC and NAP), keeping it under the current KJWA mandate.

2. Closure of Agenda Item

2.1. Continue under UNFCCC in different tracks

2.1.1. Cyclic analysis of CBs and financial entities

New mandate (under the COP or the CMA) that foresees a periodical analysis of CBs⁸, Forums, and financial entities under the convention's work and relevant international institutions (FAO, WFP⁹, WB¹⁰, etc.) and other UN conventions (UNCCD and CBD) on climate actions in agriculture and lessons learned and decisions taken, leading, if necessary, to recommendations/invitations directed toward these entities and the Parties. This option would need further exploration, for example:

- For the definition of criteria for the analysis, how the analysis could be done, by whom, timing and expected outcomes, etc.
- For the modalities of consideration of the results of the analysis, by whom in which format and under which agenda item? Who would make the report that could be analyzed?

⁷ Global Climate Action Agenda

⁸ Constituted Bodies under the Convention

⁹ World Food Programme

¹⁰ World Bank

- How it could be situated with the current agenda items, and in other fora.

2.1.2. Exchange on the work around the NDCs, adaptation communications and national plans

Periodical exchange on the progress of elaboration and implementation of NDCs, adaptation communications and other national plans, and lessons learned, leading, as appropriate, to recommendations. As the focus should be on NDCs, NAPs and other relevant plans, strategies and processes established under the UNFCCC, the meetings (under a formal agenda item or not – for example, periodic dialogues) should be mandated under the CMA. This option would need further exploration concerning the modalities of consideration of the report, by whom in which format and under which agenda item.

2.1.3. Transfer agriculture discussions to GCAA

Outside of the formal intergovernmental negotiations, countries, cities and regions, businesses and civil society members across the world are already acting to save the climate. Agriculture discussions are already taking place under the GCAA. As its name says, it is an agenda of ACTION under the UNFCCC and PA umbrella. A lot of work has already been done: Ministerial round-tables, specific thematic days, etc. helping to progress with specific actions on specific topics.

2.2. Link with other processes (e.g. FAO) and/or close

Although recognizing that agricultural issues need to be addressed in the context of climate change and urgent action is needed e.g. to mitigate emissions of the sector, so far the KJWA fell short in representing the means for improving the implementation in countries. All aspects related to climate action, agriculture and food security potentially covered by the work on this agenda item would ideally be covered under other existing agenda items under the COP and CMA and/or existing CBs. This could maybe go together with ensuring that the work on agriculture is done under other processes, for example, the FAO. This option would need a decision that explicitly closes the KJWA. Possible linkage with Options 2.1.2 (*Exchange around NDC and adaptation plans*) and 2.1.3 (*Agriculture under GCAA*).

Climate action and agriculture in international processes and options for future work outside UNFCCC

<https://www.oeko.de/publikationen/p-details/climate-action-and-agriculture-in-international-processes-and-options-for-future-work-outside-unfccc> (EN: <https://www.oeko.de/en/publications/p-details/climate-action-and-agriculture-in-international-processes-and-options-for-future-work-outside-unfccc>); pdf: [https://www.oeko.de/fileadmin/oekodoc/Background Paper Oeko-Institut 2020 Options KJWA outside UN.pdf](https://www.oeko.de/fileadmin/oekodoc/Background_Paper_Oeko-Institut_2020_Options_KJWA_outside_UN.pdf)

Overview of climate finance flows in the agricultural sector

<https://www.oeko.de/publikationen/p-details/overview-of-climate-finance-flows-in-the-agricultural-sector> (EN: <https://www.oeko.de/en/publications/p-details/overview-of-climate-finance-flows-in-the-agricultural-sector>); pdf:

https://www.oeko.de/fileadmin/oekodoc/Background_paper_Oeko-Institut_climate_finance_agriculture_2020.pdf

Options for outcomes on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture at COP26 and future work on agriculture under the UNFCCC

<https://www.oeko.de/publikationen/p-details/options-for-outcomes-on-the-koronivia-joint-work-on-agriculture-at-cop26-and-future-work-on-agriculture-under-the-unfccc> (EN: <https://www.oeko.de/en/publications/p-details/options-for-outcomes-on-the-koronivia-joint-work-on-agriculture-at-cop26-and-future-work-on-agriculture-under-the-unfccc>); pdf: https://www.oeko.de/fileadmin/oekodoc/Background_paper_Oeko-Institut_Options_KJWA_UNFCCC_2020.pdf