

## **Submission by Norway in response to conclusions from SB48, inviting views on future topics and progress of the KJWA**

### **1. Introductory remarks**

Norway refers to the conclusions from SB 48. In their conclusions, the SBI and SBSTA invited 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 COP as per decision 4/CP.23, paragraph 4.

Norway takes this opportunity to submit views on possible future topics and elements in the SB report to COP 26.

### **2. State of play – progress of the KJWA**

Norway appreciates the joint work under KJWA. We value the two-tiered approach of workshops, that allow for valuable lessons and exchanges, and proceedings that are taken forward in negotiations and SB-conclusions. Norway is prepared to complete those tasks in the upcoming session, while we recognize that full completion might be hard to reach.

Upon such completion, Norway have the following remarks:

From the outset of the KJWA, it was clear that whereas agriculture is a success in many perspectives, current agriculture is not fully compatible with needs for food and nutrition, income, employment, and meeting the threats of environmental and climate change. Each food and production system has its own challenges, and solutions are not always scalable or transferable. Thus, future successes require strategies and implementation which are context-specific and country-driven. Therefore, we see NDCs and NAPs as core instruments for agriculture under the UNFCCC. Such approach allows for solutions that will often be unique and place farmers as key agents to fulfill the diverse role of agriculture. The key issue for the KJWA is to make best use of the multilateral system to assist parties in delivering on their strategies and provide transfer of knowledge, innovations, and financial support. It could also be a suitable space to make links to workstreams on sustainable use under the CBD.

It has been clear that the work should be undertaken jointly by the SBs to move from knowledge exchange to implementation. Further, it was requested in particular that Constituted Bodies and operating entities under the financial mechanism ("CB&FM") should be invited to the work. In the subsequent workshops, we note that sustainable agriculture and adaptation of agriculture has increased attention among CB&FMs. Some have noted that they are addressing these issues as a result of KJWA discussions. Nevertheless, support is not fully able to meet needs, due to various bottlenecks including funding as well as readiness of projects and strategies.

Norway is scaling up support for adaptation, food security and disaster risk reduction. Climate smart agriculture and sustainable food production are important elements.

Wrapping up, we believe the KJWA has demonstrated that existing UNFCCC instruments and bodies, including NDCs, NAPs, CB&FMs, are mostly fit for purpose for agriculture. This is valid irrespective of the fact that these bodies typically have a broad mandate, and are not set up specifically for agriculture. We also consider that the KJWA has been pivotal in raising attention and action for

agriculture within, as well as outside, the UNFCCC. On the way forward, however, there is a need to scale up climate action in agriculture.

### **3. Elements in a report to COP**

Norway proposes that a SB report to COP, and a subsequent COP decision, could include the following elements:

- A high-level message setting the stage, as follows

*Because agriculture is indispensable for our survival, it must be sustainable, and we must address the particular vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change. Adaptation, as well as sustainable use of soils, nutrients and livestock, as highlighted in the KJWA, are fundamental. Whereas agriculture has been able to feed a rapidly growing population by an increase in overall production volumes, current trajectories are not compatible with the need for food and nutrition, income, employment, communities or to address environmental and climate change. Agriculture is uniquely positioned to address all these needs. Through improved use and management of soils, nutrients, livestock, landscapes and watersheds, agriculture is uniquely positioned to improve well-being and respond to the challenges of climate and environmental change.*

- Lessons learned from current work programme and exchanges, as follows

*Our food systems require adaptation, and sustainable use of soils, nutrients, livestock, landscapes and watersheds, as considered by the KJWA. No-regret options exist where responses to one aspect, i.e. soils, also support other aspects, i.e. adaptation, however problem shifts may also arise. Therefore, they should be managed and valued as interlinked assets and necessities.*

*For adaptation, the KJWA demonstrates that much remains to be done to address the particular vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change. There is need for transfer of know-how, technology and resources. The KJWA suggest further investment into systems and approaches to track progress with adaptation in the agricultural sector. This is necessary to learn and improve, and also because investments in adaptation are more easily justified if there is a tracking of progress.*

*For soils, cultivation practices and environmental change often put soils, and therefore food, water, carbon and nutrient cycles, under stress. Conversely, farmers are capable to improve soil carbon, ecosystems, fertility and productivity, however they must be supported with knowledge, extension services and incentives.*

*For nutrients, improved use is important for both areas with high and those with low use of external nutrient inputs, as high use areas can save emissions and costs, whereas low use areas can improve productivity and resilience. The way forward includes to make best use of local nutrient resources, including manure, practices that close nutrient cycles and technologies towards optimum dosage and timing of fertilizer.*

*Animal husbandry is a backbone of agriculture, nutrition and livelihoods worldwide. If done sustainably, livestock farming can supplement and expand other livelihoods by processing various resources into food and by cycling nutrients back into food production. Livestock can also be managed sustainably in a way that contributes biodiversity, carbon sequestration and climate resilience. This can be the case where such use does not displace or degrade areas of high carbon or nature value.*

*For food security the way forward lies in an ever-evolving mix of systems that must be tailored to local conditions, depending on the needs and preferences of farmers and other stakeholders, integrating traditional knowledge with scientific practices and following a landscape approach for sustainable food production. In order to succeed, policies must be rights-based and address inequality, economic injustice, the gender gap, the rights of different groups and the generation of income, while achieving food security for all.*

*For sustainable land management, the IPCC special report on land highlights increased productivity, increase in soil carbon content and agroforestry as ways to achieve sustainable land management. Whereas such approaches are no-regret options for society and the farmers in the long run, there may be costs or bottlenecks in the short run, including insecure land tenure, investment risks and lack of resources. This calls for policy development and innovations to overcome such bottlenecks.*

- Need to scale up implementation, as follows

*Existing instruments and bodies under the UNFCCC prove fit for purpose for agriculture, however action must be upscaled to address the vulnerabilities, and advance various benefits of agriculture. Each system has its own challenges, and therefore successes are most likely if approaches are context-specific, country-driven and based on farmers' needs. Successful policies typically build on farmers as key agents of change, and on an enabling environment including rights, self-help, empowerment and agency of farmers. The KJWA calls upon parties to include agriculture in NAPs and other plans and strategies, and upon bodies inside and outside the UNFCCC to assist countries in developing and implementing these plans.*

#### **4. Possible future topics and mandates**

For Norway, agreement of further work requires that a new mandate adds value, and avoids duplication and repetition of work. Closure of the agenda item is an option if existing work is regarded as fulfilled, and also if regarded as unsuccessful, considering the efforts that have been made. While we appreciate progress under the current mandate, we note that some other parties are hesitant to move forward until there is more commitment to address adaptation and vulnerabilities of agriculture. We also note lack of support for instance for soil-based solutions (topic c), as these were seen by some parties as mostly a mitigation option and that such topics divert resources from adaptation. We would rather turn the perspective the other way around, namely that the KJWA has highlighted various no-regret options that exist and that deserve even more attention. The agricultural sector can benefit greatly - and attract more support – from solutions that can both reduce vulnerability to climate change, improve mitigation and increase productivity.

Our outtakes from KJWA is therefore of these no-regret options that deliver win-win solutions for adaptation, mitigation, as well as a combination of other societal goals. Such reciprocity is unique for agriculture. To us, such potential for mutual benefits, is what really justifies a sectoral work program for agriculture. It may be further justified by interlinking with other UN processes where food systems are central, including UNFSS, CBD and SDGs. We therefore appreciate the pivotal role that the KJWA has had in raising attention and action for such no-regret options in various areas including soil, nutrient and livestock management. Conversely, hesitation over no-regret options represent lost opportunities.

We further recognize farmers, including smallholders, women, youth and indigenous communities, as key agents of change. Farmers are the stewards of the land and typically inclined to take a custodian approach. Such tendencies are often disrupted, however. As a proposal for further work and topics for the KJWA, we could investigate policy innovations towards ownership, self-help, agency and empowerment of farmers for climate action. In Norway, for instance, the government has reached a climate agreement with farmer unions where farmers have tasked themselves to reach a set climate mitigation targets.

If other parties want to raise further attention and action in order for agriculture and food security to deal with climate change, Norway is therefore ready to engage in exploring further work. However, we would like to note that agricultural topics are highlighted also in other forums such as the sub-targets of the SDGs, and ambitions for sustainable use under the CBD. Any future work should be seen in conjugation with these workstreams.

We note that other parties are inclined towards new bodies and finance windows to scale up implementation of climate action in agriculture, in particular of adaptation. For Norway, however, adaptation is most likely to succeed if country driven and handled in an integrated manner. Our proposal is therefore that such ambition for adaptation is best served under other mandates including NAPs and CB&FMs. In such case, where joint work on agriculture is limited to adaptation and handled by existing bodies, we see no particular mandate for KJWA after COP26. The prerequisite for such closure is that agriculture is put firmly within the mandate of existing bodies, and in that case Norway will follow up suit.

#### **Organization of work during SBs for a report to COP**

We propose that the consensus that parties can reach for and the organization of work under the SB session could follow a sequential and additional order, as follows:

- a) recognize work done (as per 3 above).
- b) revise the KJWA by additional topics and/or investigation of modalities (as per 4 above)
- c) further technical work, involving case studies and lessons learned, for instance on success criteria or tracking of progress