

STATEMENT for UNFCCC SBSTA/SBI 56 – KJWA**Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (SBSTA agenda item 4, SBI agenda item 9)**

The WHO welcomes the opportunity to engage in discussion on agriculture under the UNFCCC and commends the work of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture workshops.

Food system transformation is essential for ensuring good health and wellbeing and disease prevention for current and future generations.¹

The WHO welcomes Parties to the UNFCCC to recognize that environmental decision-making on agriculture under the UNFCCC can have significant co-benefits for global health.

We note with emphasis that:

- food production contributes approximately 30% to global carbon emissions,² and of that, food loss and waste contribute 8% to carbon emissions.³
- climate change has a significant, multi-dimensional impact on current and future food security, posing a risk of hunger for potentially millions of additional people.⁴ ; and
- the diets the current food system produces, and makes most available to the majority of consumers, compound a state of malnutrition in all its forms for over 3 billion people, worldwide.^{5,6,7}

The WHO supports a new, expanded mandate to discuss agriculture and food systems in the UNFCCC, including by anchoring dialogue in a permanent body under the UNFCCC.

The mandate of a permanent body on agriculture under the UNFCCC should address mitigation, adaptation, and co-benefits.

The mandate of this body should be based on the understanding that UNFCCC Article 2 “ensuring food production is not threatened”:

- a) Is framed in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2 (End hunger and all forms of malnutrition, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture);
- b) Is in context of the definition of food security under the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Global Strategic Framework⁸;

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996)”;

- c) That b) is in context of the evolving understanding of this definition, as specified in the CFS High Level Panel of Experts 2020 Building a Global Narrative Towards 2030⁹ report, as a “concept which is now based on addressing “multiple manifestations of hunger, malnutrition and food-related diseases through coordinated, multisectoral policies and actions.”;

- d) Draws dietary considerations from FAO and WHO's Sustainable Healthy Diets - Guiding Principles.¹⁰; and
- e) Incorporates the role of biodiversity in the food system for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The WHO, in collaboration with FAO, is tasked with leading UN Member States in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 to address “malnutrition in all its forms, everywhere.”¹¹ A UNFCCC decision to establish a permanent, cohesive, interdisciplinary body to address the sustainability and material footprint of food system design will yield health co-benefits, and is an important part of this Decade of work.

¹ WHO Food Systems for Health, See <https://www.who.int/initiatives/food-systems-for-health>

² Climate change and land: An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, See Chapter 5 https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2021/02/08_Chapter-5_3.pdf

³ 2011 calculation, FAO Food Wastage Footprint and Climate Change, See <https://www.fao.org/3/bb144e/bb144e.pdf>

⁴ Executive Summary, IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land, See Chapter 5: Food Security <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>

⁵ Independent Expert Group 2021 Global Nutrition Report: the state of global nutrition, See <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2021-global-nutrition-report/>

⁶ See WHO <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240031814>

⁷ See <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/cb4474en.pdf>

⁸ See <https://www.fao.org/cfs/policy-products/onlinegsf/en/>

⁹ See CFS <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9731en/ca9731en.pdf>

¹⁰ See <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516648>

¹¹ See <https://www.un.org/nutrition/about>