

**Submission to the Sharm El-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, for consideration at SB58**

March 2023

*Submission in regard to the elements of the joint work referred to in paragraphs 14–15 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, including views on topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b), and views on the operationalization of the portal referred to in paragraph 16 of FCCC/CP/2022/L.4*

**Key Messages:**

- 1. In order to meet Paris Agreement targets and successfully address climate and sustainability in agriculture, the Sharm El-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security must address food consumption.**
- 2. Agriculture and food consumption in the joint work should cover high-potential environmentally and socially responsible solutions, including increasing sustainable legume and bean production and consumption, facilitating access to plant-based whole foods and Indigenous crops, and increasing public funding for R&D for alternative proteins, particularly for products geared to the global south.**
- 3. Future topics of the joint work ought to cover the agriculture and food consumption solutions listed above as well as future workshop topics on youth, sustainable consumption, and just transition.**

We are pleased to submit inputs for the elements, workshops, and operationalization of the portal for the Sharm El-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

This submission draws upon the latest scientific evidence from the IPCC and UNEP as well as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's 2022 report "Drought in Numbers".

We welcome that the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) served as a valuable platform to bring food and agriculture into the climate discussions under the UNFCCC, and that it involved conversations on critical solutions including agroecology, food systems, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the livestock sector.

The new Sharm El-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security must continue and also surpass the momentum of the Koronivia process in bringing forward global food systems solutions, such as increasing legume and bean consumption and production, supporting whole foods plant-based consumption and Indigenous crops, exploring alternative proteins solutions, and highlighting the shift to more healthy, sustainable, plant-rich diets in policy-making and individual action in accordance with the common, but differentiated responsibility principle.

Just as food systems comprise around a third of GHG emissions,<sup>1</sup> climate change presents significant threats to agriculture and food security. If we are to meet the Paris Agreement targets, we must address consumption and plant-rich diets. The IPCC AR6 mitigation report confirms that *“even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated immediately, food system emissions alone would jeopardise the achievement of the 1.5°C target and threaten the 2°C target.”*<sup>2</sup> The report emphasises that, in high consuming countries, *“reduction of excess meat (and dairy) consumption is among the most effective measures to mitigate GHG emissions, with a high potential for environment, health, food security, biodiversity, and animal welfare co-benefits”*<sup>3</sup> and again notes, *“systems that emphasise healthy, plant-centred diets reduce emissions in the agricultural sector while helping in the fight against malnutrition.”*<sup>4</sup> However, UNEP notes that in many countries *“average meat consumption is far above recommended levels”* with global production projected to increase more than 60 per cent between 2010 and 2050.<sup>5</sup>

The IPCC’s Special Report on Climate Change & Land reiterates that changing consumption practices, diets, and reducing food loss and waste are all essential to achieving food security under climate change and highlights reducing meat consumption as an adaptation measure *“because it reduces pressure on land and water and thus our vulnerability to climate change and inputs limitations.”*<sup>6</sup> Further, UNEP’s 2022 GAP report shows that demand-side changes (specifically plant-based diet shifts and decreased food loss and waste) provide greater mitigation potential than even protection of ecosystems, farm-level improvements, or supply chain decarbonization.<sup>7</sup>

The UNCCD’s Global Land Outlook notes that, *“almost a third of the total food value of global crop production is lost by ‘processing’ it through inefficient livestock systems,”*<sup>8</sup> and the UNCCD 2022 report on droughts highlights that:

*“[W]e need to protect and manage lands through improved consumption and production practices. On the agriculture side, this means sustainable and efficient management techniques that grow more food on less land and with less water. On the consumption side, this means changing our relationships with food, fodder, and fibre, moving towards expanded adoption of plant-based diets, and reducing or stopping the consumption of animals”.*

## **We call on the joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security to:**

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<sup>1</sup> *Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window — Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies*, United Nations Environment Programme (2022), 54, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

<sup>2</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, p. 1285, [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, p. 1292, [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGIII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, IPCC AR6, FAQ 7.5 (2022), [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> *Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window — Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies*, United Nations Environment Programme (2022), 57, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

<sup>6</sup> *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*, IPCC, 5.3.4 (2019), <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl>.

<sup>7</sup> *Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window — Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies*, United Nations Environment Programme (2022), 55, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

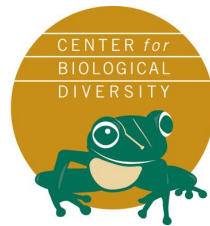
<sup>8</sup> “Global Land Outlook,” United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2017), p. 126, [http://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-09/GLO\\_Full\\_Report\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-09/GLO_Full_Report_low_res.pdf).

1. Address food consumption and protein diversification, including with consumption-targeted implementation measures for Parties.
2. Cover high-potential solutions including increasing legume production and consumption, facilitating access to plant-based whole foods and Indigenous crops, and unlocking the potential of alternative proteins.
3. Host future workshops of the joint work that cover the agriculture and food consumption solutions listed above through future workshop topics on youth, sustainable consumption, and just transition.

Consumption patterns and food loss and waste directly impact agriculture (including aquaculture and wild fisheries), and both have significant implications for food security. The joint work can and should address not only agricultural production, but also the strong impacts of demand and consumption-based measures, including the role of consumers, government legislation and fiscal incentives in order to deliver effective, long-term solutions, and examine government policies that cut across policy sectors, including, but not limited to, public health, environment, public procurement, business, investment and innovation.

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This submission is on behalf of the following organizations:



Animal Welfare. Worldwide.



MERCY FOR ANIMALS

Coller Foundation



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM



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