



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

Stockholm, 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023

**Subject: The elements of the Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security referred to in paragraphs 14–15 of decision 3/CP.27, including views on topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b)**

**Overview**

The EU welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the elements of the Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security mentioned in decision 3/CP.27 (onwards referred to as Joint Work), and the establishment of this Joint Work. This political moment should not be missed – it allows the continuation of the discussions on agriculture in relation to climate change and food security in its different dimensions.

All the activities undertaken by the Joint Work should be in line with the best available science (IPCC, IPBES, HLPE on Food Security and Nutrition in particular) and should be coordinated with the already existing platforms, strategies and plans to avoid duplication.

According to the IPCC, agriculture and food systems play a crucial role in fighting climate change, pointing towards an urgent need for increasing mitigation and adaptation action in those areas. In addition, agriculture and food systems are extremely vulnerable to climate change thus also affecting livelihoods, food security and nutrition. The decision establishing the Joint Work highlights that more than 800 million people are annually

affected by hunger, a disproportionate number of them women<sup>1</sup>. It is also important to recognize that the situation of women is particularly serious, as decreasing food security increases violence against women and girls<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, a short-term focus on food security only, can lead to higher emissions and maladaptation.

It is important to recall the KJWA Roadmap<sup>3</sup> with its workshops, expert meetings and submissions which has provided a wealth of insights and valuable exchanges on issues related to agriculture and food security. It has also helped raise the awareness of these issues for the Constituted Bodies and the Financial Entities under the UNFCCC and for actors inside and outside the UNFCCC.

The new Joint Work now commencing should ensure effective consideration of the role of agriculture and food systems as well as food security and nutrition in relation to climate change while facilitating enabling conditions for sustainability, including more sustainable management practices in rural areas. The Joint Work should also acknowledge the role of farmers and small-scale food producers as key agents of change and highlight the importance of strengthening the role of rural women (as food security and nutrition drivers, promoters of sustainability and significant contributors to the solution of the hunger crisis mentioned above), youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, while emphasizing the right to adequate food.

The Joint Work should also provide impetus to enhance ecosystem health and biodiversity in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as animal welfare.

Effective climate action in the agricultural sector and the food systems will play a pivotal role in reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement and furthers the objective of the Convention. That is, adding its share towards global emission reductions and significantly reducing the risks and impacts of climate change, while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals more widely, and food security in particular<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> CARE (2022). Food security and gender equality: a synergistic understudied symphony, <http://www.care.org/news-and-stories/resources/food-security-and-gender-equality-a-synergistic-understudied-symphony/>

<sup>2</sup> CARE (2022). Gender-based violence & food insecurity: what we know and why gender equality is the answer, <http://www.care.org/news-and-stories/resources/gender-based-violence-and-food-insecurity-what-we-know-and-why-gender-equality-is-the-answer/>

<sup>3</sup> Decision FCCC/SB/2018/L.7

<sup>4</sup> Increased heatwaves, droughts and floods from climate change are exposing millions of people to acute food insecurity, and this is set to worsen. By 2050, 8-80 million more people could face hunger - especially in sub-saharan Africa, South Asia, and Central America (AR6 WGII chp 5 Food, IPCC 2022)

## General views on the Joint Work

The EU proposes to use the next four years to enhance the exchange between Parties and stakeholders for more ambitious climate action in agriculture, food systems, food security and nutrition by establishing common ground and knowledge on the state of implementation of those actions in all countries. This should be done by identifying challenges and barriers for enhanced implementation, highlighting best practices and lessons learned as well as identifying potential sources of financial and technical support and exploring how to ensure that financial flows in the sector are consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. In addition, the forthcoming discussions of the Joint Work also represent a unique opportunity to highlight the important role of rural women and the challenging situation in which they find themselves.

The EU understands “implementation”, in the context of this Joint Work, as facilitating the planning and design of local, regional, national or international policy instruments and projects for climate action in agriculture, food systems, food security and nutrition, and putting them in place. Implementation can also be linked to creating enabling conditions<sup>5</sup>.

The Joint Work shall take the agriculture and food security discussions under the UNFCCC one step further with a food systems approach, including the value chain from production to consumption and as such build on well-known work by the UN Food Systems Summit. Taking a food systems perspective includes every aspect of agriculture related to food production<sup>6</sup>, and widens the scope to production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, thus, including food loss and waste, and diets. These aspects have enormous potential for climate action for both adaptation and mitigation. The EU also acknowledges that working on a food system approach would also ensure having a scope compatible with the six pillars of food security<sup>7</sup> and with the

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<sup>5</sup> [...] ‘enabling conditions’ refers to conditions that enhance the feasibility of adaptation and mitigation options. Enabling conditions include finance, technological innovation, strengthening policy instruments, institutional capacity, multi-level governance and changes in human behaviour and lifestyles (SPM AR6 WGIII IPCC 2022). Shukla, P. et al. (Eds.) (2022) Climate change. Mitigation of climate change. Working group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC.

<sup>6</sup> Included “Global food system [...] is defined as ‘all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the output of these activities, including socioeconomic and environmental outcomes at the global level’”. It includes emissions from “energy (e.g., grain drying), transport (e.g., international trade), and industry (e.g., synthesis of inorganic fertilisers) part of food systems, including agricultural production activities (e.g., heating in greenhouses), pre-production (e.g., manufacturing of farm inputs) and post-production (e.g., agri-food processing) activities.” “If emissions associated with pre- and post-production activities in the global food system are included, the emissions are estimated to be 21–37% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions” (IPCC 2019 SRCCL). Not included : The emissions from “fibre and other non food agricultural products” are not included in the food system approach.

<sup>7</sup> High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Food security and nutrition: building a global narrative towards 2030 (2020) The 6 pillars include : availability, access, utilization, stability, agency and sustainability

challenges affecting them according to the HLPE on Food Security and Nutrition. It is also in line with the EU internal approach as proposed in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

The Joint Work should also look more closely at the interface between climate action and biodiversity, including sustainable land use, protection, restoration and other approaches in agriculture to enhance ecosystem health and biodiversity.

This key opportunity for exchange should not be limited to the Parties but also involve Constituted Bodies, Financial Entities and other institutions and actors under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. It should also include relevant international organizations, other UN conventions and agencies and non-Party stakeholders, such as knowledge institutes, civil society organizations and the private sector. Such an inclusive approach will bring the best results. The EU suggests live streaming and recording each workshop, so that interested outside actors can fully benefit from the discussions and the results obtained.

By 2026 the Joint Work should enable an overview including examples of ambitious climate action as well as establish a common ground on how implementation and support can best be facilitated and evaluated. This will further help to improve the understanding and sharing of good implementation examples of climate projects and policy actions and processes related to agriculture, food systems and nutrition, and the formulation of best practice projects (also to be referred to in the online portal which is discussed in more detail in the EU submission on “The operationalization of the portal”).

### **Process of the Joint Work**

According to the Decision adopted in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Joint Work will take place over four years, starting in 2023 and finishing with reporting on the progress and outcomes of the Joint Work at COP31 in 2026. It will take place under both Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC.

The EU expects that Parties agree on a roadmap at SBSTA 58 to allow for constructive and well-planned collaboration throughout the 4-year period. This roadmap needs to include the subjects of the different workshops that will take place during the Joint Work. For details on the proposed roadmap see Table 1.

The EU proposes to invite Parties and stakeholders, including civil society actors, to submit their views on each workshop and to attend the workshops. A synthesis report of the WSs should be provided by the Secretariat well in advance of the second regular

sessions each year, to facilitate the consideration and the formulation of conclusions of these reports during these second sessions.

The EU further proposes that the annual Synthesis reports<sup>8</sup> provided by the Secretariat shall include information on how climate related support for agriculture is distributed, including between mitigation, adaptation and cross cutting projects, between smallholder farmers and the whole agricultural sector, and other relevant categorizations. The report shall inform Parties and stakeholders on the progress of implementation of climate action by the Constituted Bodies, Financial Entities and by the other relevant international organizations, and in particular how the constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism take into account the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies referred to in paragraph 2 of the COP decision on agriculture in implementing their actions and workplans, according to their mandates, as asked by paragraph 11. It shall be made available annually by the beginning of August covering the period between July year X-1 and July year X. Parties should discuss the recommendations based on the reports during the second regular session each year.

We further recommend that the 4-year Joint Work will establish the following two products which we consider useful for any further work under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement:

- A final synthesis report of the Joint Work on the global status and progress on adaptation and mitigation. The report should highlight projects or actions on agriculture and food security with high impact on implementation and involvement of vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers. Furthermore, the report should include a reflection on challenges and barriers and best ways to overcome these.
- An online portal which contains information and enables exchange between countries to identify good practice examples, win-win options, actions with scaling-up potential and which combines or adds to information by other portals available.

Constituted Bodies and Financial Entities and other outside actors should be invited to consider the outcome of the Joint Work leading, where appropriate, to recommendations.

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<sup>8</sup> Annual report mandated to the Secretariat on the work undertaken by CB and FE under the convention and by other relevant international organizations mentioned in paragraph 15(b)

Table 1: Proposed roadmap for the Joint Work

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Spring intersessional work	Submission in accordance with para 16 of the decision (by 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023)	Submissions on WS1 and WS2	Submissions on WS3 and WS4	Submissions on the progress and outcomes of the Joint Work
May/June session	<b>SB58</b> Agree on the roadmap including WS topics and the processes. Discussion on the portal, including presentation by the Secretariat on existing relevant portals under UNFCCC and other UN agencies.	<b>SB60</b> WS1 and WS2	<b>SB62</b> WS3 and WS4	<b>SB64</b> Discussion on the progress and outcomes of the Joint Work and the report to COP
Autumn intersessional work	Publication of the first annual Synthesis report by the Secretariat by August	Report on WS1 and WS2 by the Secretariat. Publication of the second annual Synthesis report by the Secretariat by August	Report on WS3 and WS4 by the Secretariat. Publication of the third annual Synthesis report by the Secretariat by August	Submissions on progress and outcomes of the Joint Work. Publication of the fourth annual Synthesis report by the Secretariat by August.
November/December session	<b>SB59</b> Discussion on recommendations based on the first Annual Synthesis report from the Secretariat.	<b>SB61</b> Discussion on recommendations based on the second Annual Synthesis report from the Secretariat. Consideration of the report on WS1 and WS2.	<b>SB63</b> Discussion on recommendations based on the third Annual Synthesis report from the Secretariat. Consideration of the report on WS3 and WS4.	<b>SB65</b> Discussion on recommendations based on the fourth Annual Synthesis report from the Secretariat. Finalize the discussion on the progress and outcomes of the Joint Work and report back to COP 31.

### Proposed workshops on implementation linked to the objectives in para 14

The EU proposes to organize the workshops around the objectives in paragraph 14 of the COP decision on agriculture (see Table 2). In addition, the EU proposes to deep dive into specific thematic topics at each session. Parties would be able to submit their views on workshops including thematic deep dives to be carried out at each workshop. Table 3 contains the EU’s proposed themes for possible deep dives as those being crucial to ensure implementation of climate action on the ground.

The disadvantaged situation of rural women hampers their role as food security and nutrition drivers. Therefore, the EU encourages that each workshop should contain at least one item that addresses the theme of the event in relation to rural women with a practical view to finding solutions to improve their situation.

Table 2: Proposed workshop topics and their relation to the objectives in paragraph 14 in 3/CP.27 on agriculture

Workshop topic		Joint Work objectives addressed (para 14 3/CP.27)
WS1	<p><b>COOPERATION, SYNERGIES, COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>Presentation of best practice projects and policy frameworks with information on high potential for scaling up action or on high impact;</p>	(a) Promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security taking into consideration regional, national and local circumstances, in order to deliver a range of multiple benefits, where applicable, such as adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and mitigation, recognizing that adaptation is a priority for vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers;
WS2	<p><b>PROMOTION OF SYNERGIES, COLLABORATION</b></p> <p>Including linkages and synergies with other UN-FCCC processes (GST, NWP, MWP. Article 2.1c etc.)</p>	(b) Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;

		<p>(c) Promoting synergies and strengthening engagement, collaboration and partnerships among national, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as under relevant processes and initiatives, in order to enhance the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;</p> <p>(g) Sharing information and knowledge on developing and implementing national policies, plans and strategies related to climate change, while recognizing country-specific needs and contexts;</p>
<b>WS3</b>	<p><b>CAPACITY BUILDING: TECHNICAL SUPPORT; ACCESS TO FINANCE</b></p> <p>Presentation of best practice approaches and projects on implementation with information on funding options received and/or outstanding stakeholders' involvement.</p> <p>E.g. presentations by GEF, GCF, FAO or IFAD on current financial support structures for climate action.</p>	<p>(d) Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates;</p>
<b>WS4</b>	<p><b>RESEARCH AND EVALUATION</b></p> <p>Presentation of projects which serve as outstanding examples of regional or international cooperation and how these were set up and how others can learn from these.</p> <p>Presentations about recent IPCC reports (SRCCL and AR6 WGII, WG III regarding sinks) and by FAO/UNFCCC on progress on implementation.</p>	<p>(e) Enhancing research and development on issues related to agriculture and food security and consolidating and sharing related scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experience, innovations and best practices;</p> <p>(f) Evaluating progress in implementing and cooperating on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;</p>



Table 3: Examples of themes for thematic deep dives (non-exhaustive list):

Themes	May include but not limited to:
<p><b>Synergies between mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Improving and restoring ecosystem health and biodiversity, sustainable land management and resilient agroecosystems.</p> <p>The role of enhanced carbon removals and their links to increased food security and nutrition in the context of climate change and climate action.</p> <p>The role of agroecology including agroforestry in this context.</p> <p>The synergistic role of rural women as promoters of sustainability</p> <p>How to facilitate the implementation of those mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>
<p><b>Food systems and climate</b></p>	<p>Options for low emission food systems including agroecology and nature based solutions</p> <p>Deforestation free production and value chains</p> <p>What does the Global Goal on Adaptation mean for agriculture, food security and nutrition</p> <p>The contribution of rural women to food systems as food security drivers</p>
<p><b>NDCs and NAPs</b></p>	<p>Showcasing the integration and upscaling of the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures related to agriculture, food systems, food security and nutrition in NDCs and NAPs</p> <p>Recognition of the role of rural women in NDCs and NAPs</p>
<p><b>Safeguards criteria</b></p>	<p>State of the art of criteria to evaluate activities including e.g. those from REDD+ and from the 4per1000 initiative. Parties could explore the possibility of the adoption of criteria that could be used in projects on the ground by all</p>

	kinds of stakeholders, and which could feed the discussions on Article 6.
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