

Joint submission - Anchoring a food systems approach in the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

The undersigned organizations are pleased to submit views on 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), for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-eighth sessions (June 2023). This submission builds on the joint letter to negotiators and ministers working on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture published during COP27 (included as an annex below).

Key messages

We, a global coalition of 55 organizations from across the food systems community, are calling on Parties to adopt a food systems approach within the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

We suggest that the first workshop should be organized on the theme of food systems. In the context of the new joint work, taking a food systems approach should encompass three key elements, which Parties should prioritize and jointly address:

- 1. Nature positive food production.**
- 2. Healthy and sustainable diets and nutrition.**
- 3. Food loss and waste.**

Context:

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C, preventing irreversible biodiversity loss, and nourishing all people within planetary boundaries will be impossible without an urgent and profound transformation of food systems. Up to a third of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to food systems, and food production is the most significant driver of terrestrial biodiversity loss and natural ecosystem degradation. If no action is taken, the already far-reaching impacts of the climate crisis on food and nutrition security will only grow.

Transforming agricultural systems¹ and supporting farmers and fishers to enhance adaptation so that they can build resilience to climate change is imperative. As is adopting nature-positive food production at scale, to reduce emissions and restore nature, and limit the most damaging effects of climate change on food security. It is also necessary to shift to healthy, nutritious, and more sustainable diets for all, reduce all forms of malnutrition, and radically cut down food loss and waste.

There will be no food security if we do not minimize the impacts of climate change. And there is no way to minimize the impacts of climate change without transforming food systems, from farm to fork. We need to accelerate the transition to healthier, more equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems that benefit climate, nature and people - and the new joint work has a key role to play.

¹ “Agriculture” refers to terrestrial agriculture and also to production of aquatic foods via capture fisheries and aquaculture

Our asks:

Paragraph 14 (a) of the decision FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 establishing the joint work provides a clear objective for the joint work to consider a food systems approach. It underscores that the joint work should aim at “*promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security*”. The food systems approach provides this comprehensive and holistic perspective to agriculture and food security.

At COP27 last year, food systems received unprecedented attention for a UNFCCC COP. The agreed joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security should address all components of food systems and align with the food systems approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation relevant under the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and other global and national agendas.

Ask 1: In the context of the new joint work, taking a food systems approach should encompass three key elements, which should be prioritized and jointly addressed by Parties:

- 1. Nature positive food production.**
- 2. Healthy and sustainable diets and nutrition.**
- 3. Food loss and waste.**

Nature positive food production does not exceed the carrying capacity of ecosystems. It supports the livelihoods, food, and nutrition needs of current and future generations while delivering essential ecosystem services, including soil, water, and climate regulation. It is characterized by a regenerative, non-depleting, and non-destructive use of natural resources².

Paragraph 15 (b) of the decision FCCC/CP/2022/L.4 establishing the joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security requests the secretariat to hold in-session workshops on agreed topics related to agriculture and food security.

Ask 2: The first workshop should be organized on the theme of food systems

As an outcome of the workshop on food systems, Parties should build a shared understanding of the role of food systems in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss while ensuring food and nutrition security for all, and agree on an interpretation of food systems in the context of the joint work on agriculture and food security.

² Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit “Boost Nature Positive Production” (2021) [LINK](#)

Endorsed by:

50by40; Access to Nutrition Initiative; Aleph Farms; Association of Social Entrepreneurs in Vihiga (ASEVI); Association un enfant un cartable du Burkina Faso; Beau Havens Farms; Brazilian Institute for Consumers Defense (IDEC); CARE; Caritas Internationalis; Centre for Minority Rights and Development (CEMIRIDE); CGIAR; Climate Focus; Clim-Eat; Consumers International; EAT; ECB Sustainable Youth Foundation; EIT Food; Environmental Defense Fund; Ethical Farming Ireland; European Carbon Farmers; Food and Land Use Coalition; Food Systems for the Future; Food Systems Partnership; Food Tank; Freedom 4 Animals Israel; GAFF; GAIN; Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition; Good Food Institute; IAAS; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability; IFOAM - Organics International; Instituto Regenera; International Fertiliser Association; Jeremy Collier Foundation; National Young Farmers Coalition; One Acre Fund; One Planet Business for Biodiversity; Physicians Association for Nutrition (PAN) South Africa; Planet Tracker; Plant Based Treaty; ProVeg; Real Food Systems; Scaling Up Nutrition; SDG2 Advocacy Hub; SNV; SSGV; The Farm of Francesco; The Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA); The Nature Conservancy; World Animal Protection; World Federation for Animals; WWF; YOUNGO; Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network (YARN).



Annex: joint letter to negotiators and ministers working on the Koronivia joint work on agriculture published during COP27 in November 2022 and signed by nearly 100 organizations:

Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture - Signed letter

Dear Negotiators on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and Ministers arriving at COP27,

As we enter the second week of COP27, we, a global coalition of organisations from across the food systems community, are reinforcing the urgency of agreeing a new mandate for the future of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture that can deliver sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems that enable people and nature to prosper within planetary boundaries.

Sustainable food systems deliver food security and nutrition for all, without compromising the welfare of future generations through harmful economic, social and environmental practices. In the context of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, this means taking a particular focus on sustainable food production, nutrition and dietary shifts, as well as food loss and waste.

Transforming agricultural systems and supporting farmers to enhance adaptation so that they can build resilience to climate change is imperative. As is adopting nature-positive food production at scale, to reduce emissions and restore nature, limiting the most damaging effects of climate change on food security.

It is also necessary to shift to healthier and more sustainable diets and to radically reduce food loss and waste. These are critical climate solutions without which we can neither limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, nor build sustainable food systems that provide all people with enough healthy and nutritious food.

We urge you to agree to a new mandate for Koronivia that includes food systems approaches so that we can shift to implementation.

There will be no food security if we do not minimise the impacts of climate change. And there is no way to minimise the impacts of climate change without transforming food systems, from farm to fork. Transforming agricultural systems is critical but is not enough, world leaders need to take a holistic approach to food systems.

We need to accelerate the transition to more equitable and sustainable food systems - and we can't leave COP27 without a clear process to include food systems as part of our climate solutions. We know this work is critical to tackling the climate crisis and to supporting those most in need. This cannot be another failed attempt to drive action across food systems.

Sincerely,

WWF; Environmental Defense Fund; Food and Land Use Coalition; The Nature Conservancy; Food Systems Pavilion; EAT; CARE; The Rockefeller Foundation; GAIN; GAFF; Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative; Caritas Africa; IAAS; African Biodiversity Network; ICCAD; CAFOD; SNV; WBCSD; Club of Rome; One Acre Fund; EIT Food; Clim-Eat; Global Resilience Partnership; InFarm; Good Food Institute; ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability; IFA; Aleph Farms; Food, Farming & Countryside Commission; European Climate Foundation; Food Tank; Food Systems for the Future; SDG2 Advocacy Hub; Four Paws; Food Action Alliance; CGIAR; Scaling Up Nutrition; Chatham House; Plant Based Treaty; YOUNGO; Compassion in World Farming; 50by40; World Animal Protection; Food4Climate Pavilion; Centre for Minority Rights and Development; Access to Nutrition Initiative; Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO); Caritas Internationalis; Caritas Australia; ARK AGRO-CLINIC; PAN South Africa; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN); Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda; Consumers

International; FAIRR; Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations; Young Bataeños for Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN); Nuclear/Coal-Free Bataan Movement-Philippines; Action Solidaire International; WRAP; Planet Tracker; Brazilian Institute for Consumers Defense; Food and Life; Freedom 4 Animals Israel; Israel Climate Save; Yaşamdan Yana Derneği; Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation; Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network (YARN); People Environment and Sustainability (PEAS) Foundation; Beau Havens Farms; Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments; SHE Changes Climate; Community Action for Food Security (CAFS); Mercy for Animals; Global Climate and Health Alliance; African Community of Planetary Partners for Health and Environment (ACOPPHE); International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES); Catholic Relief Services (CRS); Fauna & Flora International; Israeli Forum for Sustainable Nutrition; Act4Food Act4Change; CropLife International; European Carbon Farmers; The Farm of Francesco; One Earth; The Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA); Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition; Climate Focus; Stop Financing Factory Farming; Instituto Regenera; Association of Social Entrepreneurs in Vihiga (ASEVI); Swiss Youth for Climate; TAPP Coalition; Ethical Farming Ireland; Instituto Clima e Sociedad