

ON THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF THE “SHARM ACTION” FRAMEWORK

Submission by Uruguay on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay and Republica Dominicana on the views on the elements of the joint work referred to in paragraphs 14–15 of the decision /CP.27, including views on topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b) above on Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

Introduction

The “Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” (FCCC/CP/2022/L.4, henceforth “Sharm Action”), adopted in 2022 at COP 27, builds upon elements of decision 4/CP.23 that established the Koronivia Joint Work in Agriculture (KJWA). In its paragraph 1, the KJWA requested the SBSTA and the SBI to jointly address issues related to agriculture taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.

Climate change impacts, such as droughts and floods, are putting more pressure on the resources we depend on and on agricultural production, by increasing risks associated with disasters, and therefore on the achievement of food security. The world needs to nourish the 828 million people who are hungry today (that is approximately 9.8 percent of the world population)¹. Facing this challenge requires strengthening the agricultural sector including by increasing national capacities and international cooperation for technology development and transfer for the improvement of the adaptive capacity of agricultural systems, so that they can continue meeting the increasing food demand of a growing world population. It is necessary to continue advancing the technical and scientific work under the UNFCCC, in order to implement the adaptation measures required to prevent and minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector, thus contributing to the alleviation of hunger and poverty, and also to rural development, and thereby supporting rural and vulnerable populations.

The Sharm Action, in alignment with the aforementioned paragraph, established a four-year joint work framework focused on the implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security, including the outcomes of the KJWA and future elements. The framework recognizes that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances. In its paragraph 17, the same decision invites parties to submit views on the elements of the joint work, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-eighth sessions (June 2023).

¹ [1] FAO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2022

Thus, the co-sponsors submit the present document in the context of paragraph 17 of the aforementioned decision. It contains two parts.

Firstly, it proposes general elements to structure and organize the four-year joint work. It covers the following elements i) vision; ii) guiding principles; iii) practical goals that should streamline the broader objectives established by the Sharm Action framework; iv) the need for policy coherence with other workstreams and processes; v) basic definitions regarding governance and mode of work; vi) a work programme; and vii) suggestions of themes for the workshops to be organized in the terms of paragraph 15 of the decision.

Secondly, it proposes actions to be undertaken at the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

Part I_ GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE SHARM ACTION FRAMEWORK

Vision

To catalyze implementation of actions and measures in agriculture, in line with local, national and regional circumstances, recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and addressing the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as exploiting the potential beneficial opportunities. Also to foster long term sustainability and to increase international cooperation and access to means of implementation, including finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, among others.

Guiding principles

The following principles shall guide the work under the Sharm Action framework:

- **Accumulative knowledge:** to take into consideration, review and apply, with a focus on implementation, the elements, including documents submitted, discussions and conclusions of the workshops under the KJWA and previous activities.
- **A holistic and inclusive approach with a priority on food security:** to recognize the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security, by focusing in addressing the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems and their adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, in line with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the UNFCCC, particularly article 2.
- **Regional, national and local approaches:** to recognize that it is important to strengthen regional, national and local work, considering the different platforms and institutional mechanisms that already exist, including financial entities, with a view to make implementation viable and based on the specific context of each region, as well as on national and local circumstances. This includes the promotion of synergies, engagement, collaboration and partnership among national, regional and international organizations, initiatives, relevant stakeholders and synergies among other UN Conventions.

- The general objective of the achievement of sustainable development, addressing equally its environmental, social and economic dimensions, in a balanced and integrated manner.
- Equitable representation of the parties and full consideration of implementation options.

Goals

In the context of the broad objectives listed in paragraph 14 of the Sharm Action framework and taking into account the recommendations issued under the KJWA and decision 4/CP.23 paragraph 1, the work under the Sharm Action four-year framework launched at COP 27 shall aim to achieve the following practical goals:

- To consolidate and regularly update the available information regarding systemic and specific challenges to implementation of actions aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change in the agricultural sector.
- To identify actions and measures to address the aforementioned challenges, with a focus on safeguarding food production and global food security.
- To foster the mobilization of the adequate means of implementation to developing countries, including technologies, financial resources, capacity building and others, in line with the UNFCCC.
- To propose recommendations where applicable.

Policy Coherence and Coordination

Agriculture and food security are topics that are not only addressed in the UNFCCC process, but also under other multilateral forums, frameworks, processes and initiatives, both public and private. Nevertheless, the UNFCCC is the structural and primary forum to deal with climate related policy and therefore must strive for coherence and coordination among other forums on issues related to climate action. Recognizing that the aforementioned stakeholders have been invited to contribute in the discussions and should still do so, there is a need for strengthening dialogue and coordination to achieve policy coherence and increase the efficiency in our efforts to reduce vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change, safeguarding food security, as well as to increase implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security. In this context, the Sharm Action shall strive to promote policy coherence and coordination in the following ways, inter alia:

- The constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement should include in their reports information on how actions are implemented on agriculture and food security.
- The SBSTA and the SBI should update the information on the Sharm Action and elaborate proposals for a COP decision to provide guidance to the constituted bodies and the financial entities to integrate the thematic priorities according to their respective mandates agreed by the Parties in the KJWA.

- The UNFCCC Secretariat, other United Nations and intergovernmental organizations should strengthen their collaboration for ensuring a coordinated support for Parties in activities related to agriculture and food security.
- Operating entities under the financial mechanism of the Convention, should provide financial resources to support activities relating to the implementations of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics and invite other multilateral and bilateral finance institutions and organizations to participate.

Mode of work

The work in the Sharm Action framework shall be undertaken under the SBSTA and the SBI, in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Sessions of the Sharm Action shall be held in-person during the regular meetings of the subsidiary bodies.

Inter-sessional plenary meetings may be convened if deemed necessary – in virtual, in-person or hybrid formats. Sessions in plenary format will be the main instance of decision-making regarding the Sharm Action framework. Inter-sessional meetings shall be as inclusive as possible.

Inter-sessional work shall be carried on by a follow-up group to be composed of every party willing to participate. The follow-up group will be allowed to organize itself, to consult with the UNFCCC Secretariat, and establish its procedures, which may include all means of communication available. Its functions will be essentially to propose and execute, but not to decide on the relevant matters under consideration.

The Sharm Action follow-up group, its plenary or any parties under the UNFCCC may propose topics for workshops referred to under paragraph 15 of the Sharm El Sheikh decision and suggest participants for them. They may also propose side events – in virtual, in-person or hybrid formats – to share best practices, successful experiences in solving common problems and provide a space for collaboration, technology transfer, research, capacity building and development of joint projects.

The decisions regarding the topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph 15 and their participants will be taken by the parties.

The Online Portal created by the Sharm Action framework shall be used as a tool for supporting the work in each phase, as appropriate.

Work programme

The work under the Sharm Action framework shall be organized in four phases. The length of work in each phase are estimated as follows:

- Preparing the ground (Year 1)
- Sowing the seeds (Years 2-4)
- Nurturing growth (Years 3-4)
- Evaluating the harvest (reporting back - last SBSTA/SBI meeting at the end of the mandate)

The progress of the phases should be continuously monitored to allow for permanent follow-up of implementation and a streamlined transition between phases. The transition between phases does not need to undergo any particular formal procedure, merely being “declared” by the parties when they consider it opportune. There should be no objection to transitional periods, in which two phases temporarily co-exist.

The main tasks to be undertaken collectively and promoted by the follow up group in each of the phases shall be as follows:

1. *Preparing the ground*
 - To consolidate and regularly update information regarding:
 - gaps and barriers to the implementation of climate action.
 - barriers to investment in climate adaptation for agriculture.
 - existing tools for early warnings and diagnosis of adaptation needs in agriculture.
 - gaps in information generation for dealing with adaptation measures and actions.
 - challenges and lack of capacities, training and research for project preparation.
 - the need for new conceptual tools, such as indicators, processes and other.
 - needs in terms of building a synergic pipeline of projects, and communicating it – examine the possibility of utilizing the online portal for that end.
 - ways of creating an enabling environment for investment in local knowledge and science, as well as in the adoption of environmentally-sound technologies, fostering the participation of the private sector and other relevant stakeholders.
 - intergovernmental and multilateral financial tools available for governments to fund adaptation measures on agriculture.
 - To support the setup of the Online Portal established by the Sharm Action framework.
2. *Sowing the seeds*
 - To recommend measures and actions to address the issues identified on the first phase, on the specific context of regional, national and local circumstances.
 - To recommend measures and actions for addressing the outcomes of the KJWA.
 - To include in the Online Portal established by the Sharm Action framework projects, initiatives and policies to be followed up.
3. *Nurturing growth*
 - To identify unforeseen or later stage development issues.
 - To recommend measures to address such issues and mid-term evaluations of progress.

- To follow up on cases in the Online Portal.

4. *Evaluating the harvest*

- To review and evaluate the Sharm Action Framework.
- To consider and recommend next steps.

Workshops

Workshops shall be organized to support the work in each phase, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Sharm Action framework. The workshops could cover, inter alia, the following themes:

- Scaling up integrated systems for sustainable intensification and regeneration on agriculture, particularly to increase adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Water management and responses to droughts.
- Soil degradation and regeneration, as well as its role in the carbon cycle.
- The role of biotechnology and AgTech, R+D, innovation, for adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and contribution to food security in agriculture.
- “Loss and damage” related to agriculture.

Workshops should be organized in an inclusive manner, ensuring ample participation of representatives of all regions, including the civil society and the private sector, taking into consideration different views, including those of the scientific community and traditional knowledge, among others.

Part II _ PROPOSED ACTIONS

The co-sponsors of this document propose the following actions:

- That the SBSTA and the SBI adopt Part I as a stand-alone decision.
- That a first plenary session of the Sharm Action framework convene, with a view to launch a call for parties interested in being in the follow-up group, as well as to start the process of identification of regional, national and local priorities, taking into account their respective circumstances.