



Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

In relation to the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security 3/CP.27, paragraph 17 and paragraph 18

FAO welcomes the decision 3/CP.27 - Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (in further text referred as the Joint Work) and the opportunity to share views on the elements of the joint work referred in paragraphs 14-15, including topics for the workshops referred to in the paragraph 15(b) and operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh portal referred to in paragraph 16.

The estimated number of people facing hunger rose to as many as 828 million in 2021, marking an increase of 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic¹. Already tangible impacts of climate change and extreme weather events exacerbate the pressure on land and water resources with impacts on food security, nutrition and poverty. Thus, the urgency to address climate change has never been as critical as it is now requiring rapid acceleration of progress, particularly in addressing challenges of sustainable production and productivity as well as inequality in access to safe and nutritious food for healthy diets², while simultaneously accelerating climate action. Furthermore, the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change make it clear that urgent action is needed to address the impacts of climate change on agrifood systems, now more than ever.

Guided by the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31³ and FAO's Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031⁴, FAO is working towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that account for climate change and its impacts. These systems will contribute to low-emission economies and provide sufficient, safe, diverse, and nutritious foods for healthy diets, as well as other agricultural products and services for present and future generations, leaving no one behind. Transforming agrifood systems requires climate action at all levels, while taking into account national contexts and capacities. This transformation should address systemic and structural causes of vulnerability and exclusion, and support the pursuit of other environmental, social and economic objectives. FAO is, therefore, committed to supporting Members in their country-driven commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) ensuring that all actors, especially small-scale producers, are fully enabled, equally empowered and actively involved in decision-making processes. This effort strives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and works towards climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems.

FAO welcomes the opportunity to share its views on the objectives of the Joint Work, views on topics for the workshops and on the operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal as outlined below.

¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2022. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022. Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable*. Rome, FAO. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0639en>

² FAO. 2021. *Vision and strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition* (in press). Adopted by the 166th Session of the Council as per paragraph 24(b).

³ FAO. 2021. *Strategic Framework 2022-31*. Rome, FAO. Available at: www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf

⁴ FAO. 2022. *FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031*. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2274en/cc2274en.pdf>

Views on the elements of the joint work referred to in paragraphs 14–15 of 3/CP.27, including views on topics for the workshops (paragraph 17)

Shift to implementation (paragraph 14)

FAO welcomes the new Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security and its recognition of key recommendations identified and agreed upon in the conclusions of the Subsidiary Bodies as outcomes of the Koronivia roadmap⁵ as well as its aim to move from technical dialogues to implementation. The elements, defined in the decision (paragraph 14), show the willingness to focus on more concrete implementation actions while enhancing coordination between Parties, Constituted Bodies, the Financial Mechanism (paragraph 14b), promoting collaboration and partnerships between national, regional and international organizations (paragraph 14c), and evaluating progress (paragraph 14f).

Therefore, the priority of the new four-year Joint Work should define an Action Plan that addresses the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) outcomes and set a clear 1.5 °C pathway for the agriculture sectors and food security using the most recent scientific evidence from IPCC Sixth Assessment Report^{6,7} on adaptation strategies and mitigation options as well as other relevant global reports published by UN agencies and other international, regional or national research organizations. The Action Plan should include reporting mechanisms on how Parties are implementing the KJWA outcomes in their national policies as well as on how observers and non-state actors contribute to the implementation process. The Action Plan would benefit from a clear definition of roles and responsibilities as well as an estimation of the resources required for its completion.

FAO recommends that during the 58th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB58), Parties define a clear Action Plan for the implementation of the Joint Work. The Action Plan should include clear and time-bound activities focusing on how the Joint Work can facilitate and enable implementation on the ground, taking into consideration the elements referred to in paragraphs 2 and 14 as well as the 1.5 °C pathway for agriculture and food security. Furthermore, The Action Plan should set SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bounded) goals and specific activities.⁸ Lastly, the in-session workshops requested to take place at the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies each year should focus on the three following topics: capacity building, technology and finance for climate action in agriculture and food security.

Holistic approach addressing climate action in agrifood systems (paragraph 14a)

A holistic approach is needed when intervening in agriculture and food security in order to address the root causes of inadequacy (e.g. barriers to achieving sustainable agrifood systems). Interventions to improve food security by increasing the supply of food should not neglect such aspects as environmental elements surrounding the value chain, enhancing adaptation and resilience capacities towards impacts of climate change while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as distribution and consumption. Therefore, recognition of the holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security (paragraph 14 a) is highly

⁵ UNFCCC. 2018. *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the first part of its forty-eighth session, held in Bonn from 30 April to 10 May 2018 FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4*. In: UNFCCC [online]. Bonn. [Cited 6 February 2023]. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/9e.pdf>

⁶ IPCC, 2022: *Summary for Policymakers* [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–33, doi:10.1017/9781009325844.001.

⁷ IPCC, 2022: *Summary for Policymakers*. In: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasiija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.001.

⁸ *The examples of other action plans include Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (Decision 3/CP.25) Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (Decision 23/CP.27).*

relevant to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG2 on Zero Hunger, and the goals of the Paris Agreement. The food systems approach provides this comprehensive and holistic dimension to agriculture and food security, while being conscious of country-specific circumstances and prioritizing a human-rights based approach.

FAO recommends that the Joint Work considers a broader concept of sustainable agrifood systems and explores further synergies with the outcomes of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), the coalitions formed under the UNFSS, 2023 Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, and learns from the voluntary commitments under the UNFSS national pathways aiming to adopt a systems approach to deliver national food systems that are sustainable, equitable and support better health and livelihoods. FAO recognizes that not all components of sustainable food systems can be addressed under the Joint Work, however, the key elements should consider environmental sustainability, nutritious and healthy diets, and food loss and waste.

Enhancing coherence, synergies, and coordination (paragraphs 14b and 14c)

The Joint Work will play a critical role in driving the transformational change that the agrifood systems must undergo to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, while ensuring sustainable food production and reduction of GHG emissions. Building on the collaboration and vast information provided by the constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the UNFCCC, FAO recommends that such collaboration is continued and strengthened through the future activities of the Joint Work (paragraph 14b). FAO also welcomes the request made by Parties to the secretariat to prepare an annual synthesis report on the work undertaken by constituted bodies, financial institutions, and other entities under the Convention concerning climate action on agriculture and food security. Furthermore, FAO recommends that Parties use all opportunities through mandated processes (e.g. submissions, workshops) to enhance synergies between the constituted bodies, workstreams, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the UNFCCC on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. FAO will also continue to work with the constituted bodies and share its expertise and knowledge.

In line with the guiding principles of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, FAO believes that a multi-stakeholder approach to upscale climate action in agrifood systems will help ensure that no one is left behind and welcomes the recognition of the need to strengthen the cooperation, collaboration and partnership with actors outside UNFCCC (paragraph 14c). In this regard, FAO will continue to support Parties in integrating agrifood systems and food security in the UNFCCC processes. Additionally, with the launch of the COP27 Presidency initiative on Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST)⁹, the FAO¹⁰ will continue to support Parties to enhance country capacities to identify and access climate finance and investment, provide the necessary analysis, evidence and advice, and facilitate partnerships with financing institutions and knowledge organizations to address climate action in the context of agrifood systems and food security.

FAO recommends that the Joint Work strengthens collaboration with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)¹¹ and builds on the initiatives and voluntary guidelines and recommendations already negotiated and agreed by countries, that can help to enhance the climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. Some of the voluntary guidelines include the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition¹² and its evidence platform¹³, and on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems¹⁴. Additionally, through strategic partnerships, FAO will continue to support countries and the Joint Work to enhance coherence and synergies, and to support efforts that increase efficiency, reduce redundancy, and catalyze implementation for increased impact in climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security.

⁹ FAO and FAST, 2022. *Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative – FAST*. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2186en>

¹⁰ FAO. 2023. *FAO Investment Center*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/support-to-investment/our-work/by-area-of-work/en/>

¹¹ CFS. 2023. *The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/cfs/en/>

¹² CFS. 2021. *Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition*. Rome, FAO. <https://www.fao.org/cfs/vgfsn>

¹³ FAO. 2022. *Evidence platform for agrifood systems and nutrition*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/cfs/policy-products/rai>

¹⁴ CFS. 2014. *Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*. Rome, FAO. <https://www.fao.org/3/au866e/au866e.pdf>

Support and technical advice to Parties, Constituted Bodies and Financial Mechanism (paragraph 14d)

FAO supports its member countries in climate change adaptation and mitigation in agrifood systems. This includes offering technical guidance, research, data and tools for improved decision on climate-change related policies, development of technical and functional capacities of countries to support their NDC commitments, and mobilization of investment in agriculture through the Financial Mechanism, International Financial Institutions, bilateral donors and the private sector. Using this expertise, FAO has been working in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat and other actors at international and national levels to support Parties throughout the implementation of the Koronivia roadmap through webinars, workshops and diverse sets of information materials (including analysis of submissions, workshop summaries, briefs and multimedia materials, and informal Koronivia Dialogues at the global and regional levels) to help all stakeholders navigate the KJWA process within UNFCCC¹⁵. FAO also recommends that Parties use all opportunities through mandated processes (e.g. submissions, workshops) to enable synergies between the constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the UNFCCC on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security.

Enhancing research and innovation, development science and technology (paragraph 14e)

Though agrifood systems are linked globally, many challenges and solutions are context-dependent, and there are crucial differences between the global North and the global South, as well as between urban and rural areas that cannot be overlooked. There is no single solution that will help Governments and industry transform agrifood systems and ensure food security for all.

Guided by the Science and Innovation Strategy 2022-2031¹⁶, FAO contributes to strengthening the links between science, research and development and continues to contribute to science (for example, through its work on data) and develop innovations (for example, institutional innovations such as Codex Alimentarius, social innovations such as Farmer Field Schools and technological innovations such as the geospatial platform of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative; and the FAO-SEPAL Platform and Global Individual Food consumption data tool). FAO also translates the science and innovation that is developed by other actors into practical tools and policy guidance for development. FAO provides support to countries on innovative practices, approaches, methodologies and tools. It also supports science-driven innovative processes, platforms, and multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Some examples include:

- *FAO web-based early warning and forecasting tools*, such as the EMPRES-i¹⁷, and the Event Mobile Application (EMA-i)¹⁸ enhance veterinary services capacities in near real-time monitoring, forecasting and risk mapping of vector borne diseases and animal health threats to guide informed actions for prevention and control through a One Health and inclusive approach.
- *The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture*¹⁹, also aids Members through support and coordination of research and development activities; capacity building and technology; laboratory support; and policy advice and knowledge dissemination. The Joint Centre strengthens national capacities to learn more about the impacts of climate change, as well as to improve agricultural resilience, and the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

¹⁵ FAO. 2019. Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. In: Climate Change. Rome. Cited 6 February 2023. <https://www.fao.org/koronivia/en/>

¹⁶ FAO. 2022. FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>

¹⁷ FAO.2023. EMPRES-i. FAO, Rome. Available at: <https://empres-i.apps.fao.org/>

¹⁸ FAO, 2019. Event Mobile Application EMA-i. Rome, FAO. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7122en/CA7122EN.pdf>

¹⁹ IAEA and FAO. 2023. Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. Available at:

<https://www.iaea.org/about/organizational-structure/departments-of-nuclear-sciences-and-applications/joint-fao/iaea-centre-of-nuclear-techniques-in-food-and-agriculture>

- *Tools for assessing impacts of climate change, planning responses and meet reporting requirements*, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions Expert Tool (NEXT)²⁰ provides annual GHG emission reductions and set of environment indicators; EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT)²¹ provides consistent way of estimating and tracking the GHG fluxes of policies, projects and investments covering Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU);

FAO believes that the Joint Work can facilitate connections between technical, development and financial partners, policymakers, producers, other practitioners, scientists and innovators, across all sectors of agrifood systems and tailor them to the regional and national contexts. At the same time, governments must support investments in national research, development, science and innovation with a particular focus on locally-relevant and adaptive research that addresses agrifood systems and food security in the context of climate change.

Knowledge sharing (paragraph 14g)

FAO welcomes the attention that the Joint Work gives to knowledge sharing and is dedicated to increasing the visibility and accessibility of research, knowledge, and best practices that leverage the benefits of a consolidated and disseminated pool of knowledge with which all can learn from and expand upon. FAO recognizes that strengthening the engagement of international, regional and national organizations in scaling up access to agricultural data is crucial to the agrifood systems' sustainable transition and food security. At the same time, it is important to note that several knowledge-sharing and capacity-building forums on developing and implementing national policies, plans and strategies related to climate change, while recognizing country-specific needs and contexts, already exist and the Joint Work should capitalize and build on those. For example, some established or supported by FAO are the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use under the NDC Partnership²², Law and Climate Change Toolkit²³, the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture²⁴, Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture²⁵, Latin America and the Caribbean focused its participation through the Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture²⁶ and FAO Climate Change Knowledge Hub (further described in the next section). The Joint Work should explore the existing knowledge-sharing platforms, forums and portals and capitalize on the efforts and resources that have been invested, rather than building new ones.

Views on the operationalization of the portal referred to in paragraph 16 of 3/CP.27 for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-eighth sessions (3/CP.27, paragraph 18)

FAO welcomes the decision to establish the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal under the Joint Work for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. The new portal has the potential to enable voluntary collaboration among countries and create space for the exchange of knowledge, technologies and collaborative practices in agriculture to support the implementation of climate change policies.

²⁰ FAO. 2023. *The Nationally Determined Contributions Expert Tool (NEXT)*. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/ndcs/research-tools/next>

²¹ FAO. 2023. *The EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool*. Rome. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/index.php?id=98018>

²² FAO. 2018. Thematic Working Group on agriculture, food security and land use. In: Climate Change. Rome. Cited 6 February 2023. <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/ndcs/twg/en/>

²³ The Commonwealth, UNEP, UNFCCC, 2018. Law and Climate Change Toolkit In: Climate Law Toolkit. Cited 6 February 2023. <https://climatelawtoolkit.org/>

²⁴ CACSA. 2023. Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/gacsa/en/>

²⁵ FAO. 2023. Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/en>

²⁶ PLACA. 2023. Latin America and the Caribbean focused its participation through the Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture. Available at: <https://accionclimaticaplaca.org/en/>

Importantly, FAO notes that online portals focusing on knowledge sharing and peer learning already exist, and therefore recommends that countries build the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal onto already existing, established and recognized knowledge platforms; for example, FAO's Climate Change Knowledge Hub (CCK-Hub)²⁷. The CCK-Hub aims at incorporating work areas such as agroforestry, interactions with forestry, and fisheries to cover the entire spectrum of agrifood systems.

As a knowledge organization, FAO promotes the exchange of scientific research and technical knowledge related to all aspects of food and agriculture, including the dimension of climate change. This was embedded in the previous FAO Strategy of Climate Change (2017), as well as in the FAO Strategic Framework and Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 that include various regional and country-level initiatives and policies in this area. FAO continues to develop the CCK-Hub towards strengthening global and regional climate policy and governance by enabling and enhancing the use of data, best available science, information, knowledge, best practices, innovations, tools and technologies on climate change, adaptation and mitigation across agrifood systems for the global community, partners and decision-makers at different levels. In this regard, FAO is ready to host the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal building on the pre-existing CCK-Hub.

FAO Climate Change Knowledge Hub

In 2020, with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of the Federal Republic of Germany, FAO developed and launched the Climate Change Knowledge Hub (CCK-Hub) aiming to enhance countries' knowledge and capacity to deliver on their climate and sustainable development goals. The CCK-Hub is a web-based portal that gathers existing knowledge and resources on climate change in the agriculture and land use sectors. Its interactive features allow users to connect with peers, experts and capacity providers. It also provides data, learning materials, guidelines, and policy advice and tools. The CCK-Hub consists of:

The **RESOURCES** section is a weekly updated repository including resources on climate change and agriculture sectors (cropland, grazing land, land and water management, fisheries, peatlands, among others). So far, it contains more than 1,000 resources from FAO, UN agencies and partner organizations. Special attention is also given to more than 100 countries' experiences in addressing adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk management in the context of agriculture and food security.

The **CONNECT** feature that allows users to connect with peers, experts and capacity-building providers in more than ten specialized Communities of Practices facilitated by FAO and active through various media (including e-mail and social media) discussion groups.

The **LEARNING** corner that offers easy access to capacity development products including technical webinars, ad-hoc training and both facilitated and self-paced e-learning courses.

The **YOUTH** segment acknowledges the crucial role of youth as the generation most threatened by climate change and supports the significant role that young people play worldwide in raising awareness and providing innovative solutions. This section focuses on enhancing their knowledge with a dedicated webinar series that raises awareness about the role of agriculture and food security in climate change action and how to be engaged in related UNFCCC processes. In addition, this space provides youth with opportunities to access job openings and advance their careers in the climate change and agriculture sector.

²⁷ FAO. 2023. *Climate Change Knowledge Hub (CCK-Hub)*. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/knowledge-hub/en/>