SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICA GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS (AGN)

ON

THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH ONLINE PORTAL UNDER THE FOUR-YEAR SHARM EL-SHEIKH JOINT WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE ACTION ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Background

The Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session, held in Bonn in 2017, adopted decision 4/CP.23 on the "Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)", which requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.

Parties agreed on KJWA roadmap on six topics with an additional on sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security; and strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances. Six in-session workshops and one intersessional workshop were held between 2018 and 2021.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022, Parties adopted decision 3/CP.27 which:

- recognized the vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change and the importance of scaling up support to enhance action on safeguarding food and nutrition security and ending hunger, aiming for inclusive, sustainable and climate resilient agricultural systems;

- also recognized the need to improve the enabling environment for mobilizing resources for implementing action at the local, national and international level, as well as enhanced knowledge sharing on best practices, access to finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building;

- requested the SBSTA and the SBI to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the seven objectives;

- established 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.

In light of the foregoing, the **Africa Group** presents its views on the operationalization of the portal.

Context

Agriculture in Africa is driven by over 250 million small-scale farmers (FAOSTAT, 2021) of which 47% are women. Information about climate and adaptation may assist African farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks in developing climate change resilience. However, Africa represents nearly 17% of Internet users in the world, or approximately 859 million Internet users on the continent; The Internet penetration rate is 43% (December 2021) with less than 24% of households have internet access in many African countries, limiting their access to information that provide solutions to the climate challenges we grapple with, being that their farming is primarily rainfed (FAO, 2022). Literacy among the small-scale farmers is an important factor to consider. In spite of these challenges, access to technology and digital information offers a significant opportunity to smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks, women, youth, indigenous people and local communities by providing links to information for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. The online portal should, to the extent possible, be farmer-friendly, inclusive of both scientific and indigenous knowledge systems.

1. Scope of the portal

a. _Objective of the portal_

The online portal is expected to play an important role in sharing and exchanging information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security; and connecting Parties, Constituted Bodies and Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism under the Convention, United Nations organizations and other relevant institutions, agencies and entities, the research community, the private sector, civil society and farmers organizations, among others and as appropriate. In particular:

- facilitating information sharing on projects, initiatives, and policies;
- sharing scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experiences, innovations and best practices;
- facilitating matchmaking, partnership and cooperation;
- facilitating awareness creation, peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, and networking to promote implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security;
- sharing information on opportunities for finance, capacity building; and technology development and transfer;

b. _Topics of focus_

The online portal topics of focus are those related to sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, including, but not limited to, those addressed in the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics.

2. Design and implementation of the portal

Africa highlights the importance of making the information on the online portal easily accessible with appropriate search function:

a. **Interface/structure**: information on the online portal can be organized by:

- category and subcategory of activity (projects, initiatives and policies) that can be accessible to farmers, pastoralists, and other users;

- Stakeholders: Parties, accredited observer organizations, UN agencies, and others, including farmer organizations;

- Regions, subregions, and countries;

- Link to other relevant websites;

- Clarity on the administrator/Focal Point of the online portal;

Because of the increasing mobile penetration in Africa, the online portal should, to the extent possible, be accessible by mobile technology.

b. Submitters (who has rights to post?)

The documents can be uploaded on the online portal by all Parties; organizations with observer status, Constituted Bodies and Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism.

Parties submissions should be, **through sector contact point**, through the National Focal Points. Each submission should be accompanied with an abstract/summary of the initiative, policy or action, to facilitate its use.

c. Language(s) of the online portal

The online portal ought to be available in the official UN languages.

d. Safegarding information/privacy/confidentiality

Need to have protection of proprietary of information submitted to the online portal.