

## Submission of the United States on Operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh Online Portal

May 2023

The United States is pleased to submit its views on the operationalization of the portal referred to in paragraph 16 of decision 3/CP.27.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) in November 2022, Parties requested the SBSTA and SBI establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work program on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (SSJW). They also requested the Secretariat support this joint work by holding in-session workshops and by preparing annual synthesis reports on activities related to the SSJW and on work undertaken by constituted bodies, other entities under the Convention, and relevant international organizations. Additionally, Parties decided to establish an online portal under this SSJW for the purpose of sharing information on projects, initiatives, and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security.

This online portal has the potential to raise awareness of implementation barriers and opportunities among Parties, constituted bodies, and external organizations in a position to advance implementation of climate action. To advance operationalization, at SB58 Parties must discuss the scope and administration of the portal. Issues of what information belongs on the portal, who can share information on the portal, who will maintain and curate information and so on, are complex and merit careful consideration by Parties.

In light of the urgent need to accelerate climate action in agriculture and food security, we recommend Parties decide on a lightweight, Party- and observer-focused sharing of information via the portal, while continuing to work inclusively to consider larger issues of stakeholder engagement, organization, scope, and administration of the portal. This approach could proceed, for example, by deciding at SB58 on a process and timing for Parties and observers to share information, so this effort can begin via the online portal as soon as feasible. Also at SB58, Parties could decide on next steps to consider ongoing operationalization of the portal during the SSJW, including steps to revisit the initial approach and assess feedback and portal use statistics at future SB sessions. While their mandate and scope differ from the SSJW portal, both [TT:CLEAR](#), the UNFCCC info hub for climate technology across sectors, and the [REDD+ Web Platform](#), established by Parties to share information on REDD+ activities and facilitate access to relevant information for institutions seeking to support REDD+, may be useful models for the SSJW portal.

To support synergy and coherence across the work of the Convention and relevant organizations, and reduce duplication of effort, Parties should consider existing online portals and websites with purposes and functions similar to the SSJW portal. The United States suggests the Secretariat compile and present a brief summary of UNFCCC websites that facilitate information sharing on projects, initiatives, policies, and scientific or technical information related to implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security, as well as other online sites linked to the work of UN bodies that serve a similar function.

Related websites connected to other Rio Conventions also share information on programs and policies relevant to implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security. Similarly, countries, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations may host information sharing websites with complementary goals to the SSJW portal. Given the scope of online information available, gathering and presenting all related resources comprehensively via the SSJW online portal would be impossible to implement. However, the inclusion of civil society views via observer organizations and other means of engagement consistently enriched the KJWA process and will remain an important part of the SSJW. Parties should assess the stated objectives of the portal and determine how to make operational decisions with this landscape of complementary online resources in mind.