

Submission by Norway on elements of the Sharm el Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security

1. Introductory remarks

Norway refers to the call for submission in decision 3/CP.27 para. 17. We hereby share our views on the elements and establishment of the Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security mentioned in paragraphs 14 and 15 of decision 3/CP.27 (onwards referred to as Joint Work)

Norway notes that implementation of climate action is context specific and always depends on implementation at the grassroots level, supported by national action plans and strategies including NDCs and NAPs. The key issue for the present Joint Work, is to make best use of the multilateral system to support such implementation. A key priority for Norway for upcoming work is to improve the efficiency of the multilateral system in assisting parties and actors in scaling up those no-regret solutions, and establishing those safeguards and success criteria, that are highlighted in decision 3/CP.27.

Norway has recently issued two strategies under our policies for development co-operation of interest for the present work, on food security¹ and on climate change adaptation², and allocated additional resources in these areas. There are many commonalities between the priorities in these strategies, and those no-regret-solutions and success criteria that are identified in decision 3/CP.27 and now ripe for further implementation. Norway therefore encourages other parties to make these no-regret-solutions a common cause. Such no-regret solutions not only benefit agriculture, they can also attract more support.

Norway's views on a roadmap for the upcoming Joint Work

Our task for SB58, minimally, is to conclude on a roadmap for the upcoming work. We are cautious that if such a roadmap should be developed from scratch, there might be a long way to reach consensus. Elements of the roadmap could therefore preferably build on elements from the previous roadmap under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, as appropriate, in order to shorten the way to reach consensus and a successful outcome at SB58. From submissions, Norway notes that there are numerous ideas of items to include in the roadmap, and of approaches that could bring added value. Norway is cautious, however, that our core task is to complete the elements in decision 3/CP.27 para 14 and 15, and that other elements might be a distraction.

We see the elements in para 14 (a-g) mostly as purposes, also to achieve better the outcomes from previous work (in para 2), while the synthesis report and workshops in para 15 and the portal in para 16 are key instruments towards these purposes. For example, the synthesis report could be the key instrument to deliver para 14 (a, b, d, e, f). The report could include information on how climate related support for agriculture is distributed, and inform Parties and stakeholders on the progress of implementation of climate action by the constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial

¹ «Combining forces against hunger – a policy to improve food self-sufficiency»:
<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/Food-security-strategy/id2948780/>

² «Climate change, hunger and vulnerability»:
https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/climate_vulnerability/id2963175/

mechanisms (CB&FMs) and by the other relevant international organizations, and in particular how the constituted bodies etc. take into account the conclusions in paragraph 2 of decision CP.3/27, according to their mandates, as requested by paragraph 11.

Other elements will benefit from being explored in workshops. We therefore see the workshops as an opportunity to combine an exploration of certain more technical issues, with deliberations over how to deliver various elements that remain from para 2 and para 14. For each workshop item we propose that inputs and outputs are also provided in the following sequential order, similar to the stepwise process followed under the KJWA:

Submissions – in-session deliberations – report from the secretariat – SB considerations/conclusions

The format of such deliberations can build on experience from workshops that have been undertaken in the KJWA. These workshops have included a combination of input from key-note speakers, including experts and practitioners, country experience and representatives of CB&FMs, and with ample space for discussions and input also from stakeholders and constituencies from civil society.

Norway finds much common ground here with the way forward proposed by the European Union (EU) in the EU submission, and we are eager to engage on that proposal.

Norway's proposals for workshop topics

Climate action on agriculture and food security is of relevance across the world, from the ground level to the international level. Norway favours those workshop topics that are broadly relevant across the world, allowing for Norway to have our experience to bring to the table, and for take-home messages for us to bring home. Rather than a narrow focus e.g. on particular technologies as such, we favour topics that take a systemic and holistic perspective, where agriculture is managed as a system, building on farmers as key agents of change, towards the achievement of multiple benefits. In many parts of the world, smallholders, women, indigenous and family farmers are the backbone of agriculture and food security, while also being among those that suffer most from food insecurity and vulnerability to climate change. We propose that topics should in particular address the needs of such farmers and smallholders.

Climate action on agriculture and food security is a priority area for Norway both in domestic agricultural policy and in our development co-operation. For our domestic agricultural policy, there are much expectations on agriculture to take its share of the responsibility to mitigate climate change. In development co-operation, adaptation is a clear priority. Nevertheless, the no-regret solutions, safeguards and success criteria to address each priority are often one and the same, including improved management of soils, nutrients and livestock. In both contexts, we observe that solutions will be most likely to succeed if they build on farmers as key agents of change.

As mentioned, Norway's strategies for our development co-operation align well with no-regret options, safeguards and success criteria for climate action as identified in decision 3/CP.27. Emphasis is given to family and smallholder farming systems, to farmer's self organisation as an efficient approach to empower farmers and improve food security and societal goals, and to integrated and holistic approaches. Particular emphasis is given to land and soil management approaches that support livelihoods while reducing deterioration of soils and displacement of ecosystems.

Agroecological approaches are also highlighted. For Norway therefore, these topics are well placed for further workshops – they can serve as no regret solutions that benefit agriculture whilst also attracting more support, while they still need further exploration and exchanges.

Norway therefore has the following proposals for workshop topics.

- Whereas “Sustainable land management” has been the topic for workshops under the KJWA, this topic rewards further exploration. To avoid duplication of previous work, we suggest that a workshop could look into particular options that have been proposed in this area, as follows: *Potentials and advantages for land-sharing compared to land-sparing approaches in agriculture, to address multiple societal goals and land challenges (e.g. those identified in the IPCC special report on land and the Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework).*
- In previous work under KJWA, and in submissions for SB58, we find much agreement that agroecological approaches are of interest to many. This topic aligns well with Norway’s strategies for development co-operation. We therefore propose a workshop topic as follows: *Build capacities and share knowledge, challenges and experiences on shifting to agroecological approaches, and the support needed for such a shift”.*
- We further recognize farmers, including smallholders, women, youth and indigenous communities, as key agents of change. Farmers are the stewards of the land and typically inclined to take a custodian approach. Such tendencies are often disrupted, however. As a potential workshop topic, we could investigate *policy innovations towards ownership, self-help, agency and empowerment of farmers for climate action.* In Norway, for instance, the government has reached a climate agreement with farmer unions where farmers have tasked themselves to reach a set climate mitigation targets.

Finally, Norway shares the interest shown by many other parties to explore how food systems can be improved to deliver better outcomes both for farmers, for citizens and for the planet – all of whom living under pressure from various types of impoverishment. However, we note that some other parties are hesitant to discuss food systems as discussions in these areas tend to end up in controversies over diets. Norway would be happy for further clarification from these other parties how food systems could be dealt with in an appropriate manner without raising too much sensitivities and controversies.