

Joint submission on suggested topics under the Mitigation Work Programme in line with the Decision -/CMA.5, Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme referred to in decision 4/CMA.4

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we welcome the opportunity to submit our views on dialogue topics under the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) global dialogues in 2024. Noting that the aim of the MWP is to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation through consideration of thematic areas across all sectors, **we propose that climate action on food systems, from production through consumption, be considered as a topic under the MWP dialogues in 2024.**

Climate action on food systems is essential for mitigation, and COP28 revealed strong political will to integrate food systems and climate action. The MWP dialogues can play an essential role in translating this political ambition in policies and implementation.

Food systems are essential to reduce emissions.

Our current global food systems are responsible for one third of human-caused GHG emissions globally¹ and account for at least 15% of fossil fuel use annually.² As noted in the 2022 UNEP Gap Report, “any climate stabilization pathway requires a substantial reduction in emissions from food systems.”³ The IPCC confirms that “even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated immediately, food system emissions alone would jeopardise the achievement of the 1.5°C target and threaten the 2°C target.”⁴

COP28 demonstrated unprecedented ambition to address food systems.

At COP28, food systems garnered long overdue attention, rightfully recognizing the significant intersections across food systems and climate change. The [outcome of the first Global Stocktake](#) encouraged the “implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions,” including “sustainable agriculture” and “resilient food systems.”⁵ The decision also recalls that the next round of NDCs are to be “informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake,” and encourages Parties to “take into account the good practices and opportunities identified during the technical

¹ Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D. et al (2021) Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *Nat Food* **2**, 198–209 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00225-9>

² Global Alliance for the Future of Food (2023) [Power Shift: Why We Need to Wean Industrial Food Systems Off Fossil Fuels](#).

³ *Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window – Climate Crisis Calls for Rapid Transformation of Societies*, United Nations Environment Programme (2022), 53-54, <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>.

⁴ *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, IPCC AR6 (2022), 12.4.3 IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*, p. 1285, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf

⁵ [FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17](#)

dialogues of the first global stocktake in enhancing their actions and support.”⁶ Among the latter, the GST technical dialogues revealed significant untapped opportunities at all stages of the food system—including production, transport, manufacturing, consumption, and waste. For example, the GST technical dialogue synthesis report specifically highlighted demand-side measures including shifting to healthy sustainable diets and reducing food loss and waste, noting that options such as these in agriculture and food systems “can have multiple synergies with the SDGs.”⁷

In addition, at COP28 over 150 countries signed the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#), stressing that food systems are critical to achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Signatories to the declaration have pledged to “integrate agriculture and food systems into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Long-term Strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and other related strategies before the convening of COP30.”⁸

The MWP dialogues can help translate this ambition into action and unlock support.

The MWP global dialogues can serve as an opportunity to facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and opportunities reflecting the importance of food system change for mitigation action as well as the cross-cutting nature of food systems. The global dialogues can support political ambition on food and climate action shown through the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action and through the Global Stocktake outcome, and can support Parties in translating this ambition into their NDCs by deepening understanding of food systems and unlocking finance and investment to drive implementation.

As Parties develop their NDCs and strengthen the integration of food systems within these NDCs, they must carefully consider the cross-cutting nature of food system, including interfaces with human rights, gender equality, health, livelihoods, poverty eradication, food security, nutrition, ecosystems, biodiversity, animal welfare, and nature. The IPCC notes that “[w]here carefully and appropriately implemented, AFOLU mitigation measures are uniquely positioned to deliver substantial co-benefits...If AFOLU measures are deployed badly then, when taken together with the increasing need to produce sufficient food, feed, fuel and wood, they may exacerbate trade-offs with the conservation of habitats, adaptation, biodiversity and other services.”⁹ The MWP global dialogues can facilitate discussion and consideration of these cross-cutting issues.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ [FCCC/SB/2023/9](#)

⁸ [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#) (2023).

⁹ Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change, IPCC (2022), TS 5.6.1, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_FullReport.pdf.

Endorsing Organizations

Brighter Green

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Center for Biological Diversity

Chilis on Wheels

Changing Markets Foundation

Compassion in World Farming

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Humane Society International

Mercy For Animals

Plant Based Treaty

ProVeg International

Real Food Systems

World Animal Protection

World Federation for Animals