

Key messages for UNFCCC COP 28

Elaborated by the Working Group “Mainstreaming Sustainable Food Systems Approach” of the One Planet Network’s Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Programme¹

Topline message:

COP28’s legacy - What should COP28 deliver? An enhanced implementation strategy integrating food systems actions.

Since COP26 in Glasgow, there has been much talk of a ‘shift to implementation’, with little progress. Parties should agree on a strategy for immediate full-scale and coordinated implementation of the actions, policies and measures required to meet current targets, and enable the more ambitious targets needed to close the ambition gap, including the integration of actions across the entire food system into climate targets, and build the climate resilience of people and nature.

Key messages on the needed outcomes of COP28 in relation to transforming food systems through a sustainable food systems approach, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and more coherent and holistic policies:

A FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- The IPCC is clear that without addressing emissions from food systems - in addition to rapid decarbonization of all other sectors - it will not be possible to keep 1.5°C within reach. Therefore, **governments need to take a food systems² approach when tackling climate change, and elevate the topic on the COP28 agenda through two key outcomes:**
 - **Broadening the scope of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SSJW)**, by ensuring a holistic focus that goes beyond agricultural production and considers all actors, activities and elements in food systems including pre-production, transporting, processing, consumption, disposal, and beyond.
 - Agreement that actions to transform food systems holistically should be included into **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Long-term Strategies (LTS) before COP30, operationalizing** the interventions put forth by the **Emirates Declaration** on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture, and Climate Action.
- Established at COP27, the four-year “Sharm-el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security” should go beyond a series of workshops, and result in the **establishment of a clear roadmap with concrete steps to achieve a holistic focus on food in climate action**, including at least the two aforementioned key outcomes.

¹ For more information on the SFS Programme, see:

<https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/programmes/sustainable-food-systems>

² Definition: “A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.” A sustainable food system (SFS) is a “food system that ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised. **Source:** HLPE. 2014a. Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. Rome.

- A holistic, multi-stakeholder, food systems approach means better coordinating and aligning different, and sometimes conflicting policy agendas and cross-cutting issues (e.g., agriculture, environment, trade, health, food safety) through multi-stakeholder dialogue, collaboration, and coordination, to better meet the needs of food systems actors and support multiple sustainability outcomes (environmental, socio-economic, nutrition and health).
- Sustainable food systems are a key nexus of the sustainable development agenda. IPCC findings outline that **only the combination of supply-side actions and demand-side interventions across the entire food system will allow the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals** and the implementation of adaptation strategies without threatening food security. The IPCC findings also outline that the collaborative involvement of local actors, particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, improves the effectiveness of decision-making and trade-off management.

PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS

- Sustainable, resilient, healthy, and inclusive food systems are urgently needed and **are a precondition to address the interrelated crises of food insecurity, malnutrition, health, climate change, biodiversity loss, conflict, as well as high energy and consumer prices.**
- **Strong political signals are needed at COP28 to phase out fossil fuels in food systems and other sectors** no later than 2050, including targets for renewables, energy efficiency and energy access in food systems and beyond. To end dependence of food systems on fossil fuels requires a collaborative and deliberate approach by both the energy and food sectors.
- **New Work Programmes:** The outcomes of the new Mitigation Work Programme this year should be part of a globally agreed plan to phase out all fossil fuels addressing financial, technological and capacity building needs in this area, such as through international cooperation, including with non-Party stakeholders, and provision of support to developing countries; and promoting development and understanding socioeconomic effects. The also new Just Transitions Work Programme should provide guidance to national governments on how to design such pathways in a just and equitable manner, with the full participation of all stakeholders and enhanced international cooperation.
- There are a **range of “high-impact no-regret” opportunities for collaboration between energy and food systems stakeholders:** 1) phasing out reliance on fossil fuel-based agrochemicals and transitioning to regenerative and agroecological approaches; 2) reviewing fiscal policies to counter negative externalities of energy production; 3) shifting to renewable energy for cooling, heating, drying, processing, and transport; 4) ensuring healthy, sustainable, and just food environments that support plant-rich diets, minimally processed foods, and sustainably produced animal sourced proteins. For the latter it is critical to be mindful of the different needs in different contexts: some places require animal protein to ensure nutrition, while other places require reducing over-consumption to ensure planetary health; and 5) tracking and addressing corporate consolidation in the agrochemical and food industry.

AN EFFECTIVE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE TO ELEVATE CLIMATE ACTION AND AMBITION

- **A successful Global Stocktake should:**
 - **Pave the way for unprecedented and immediate implementation of current NDCs** through sectoral policies and measures, especially on energy, nature and food systems;
 - **Set a global roadmap to reset climate ambition and implementation at national level as well as strengthen international cooperation** and other enabling conditions for stronger NDCs by 2025 or earlier, with revised 2030 targets in addition to 2035 targets.
- This responds to the need for **urgent focus on both the short term and the long term**, and is analogous to the two-pronged action that is needed for food systems transformation, as

[recommended by the 4th global conference of the One Planet network Sustainable Food Systems Programme](#): While the current food and climate crises require short term action, such action should be conducted in the framework of a long term strategy and a holistic and inclusive approach to food systems governance and policy making.

BOOST ADAPTATION FINANCE AND ACTION

- **Full operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund**, with substantial pledges of new funds by countries bearing greatest responsibility, and progress on alternative sources. Loss and Damage is critical for food systems resilience. To highlight how agrifood systems are at the frontlines of loss at damage, FAO will be publishing the report Loss and Damage and Agrifood Systems – Taking Climate Action Forward.
- A decision on a **comprehensive framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation** with the guiding structure agreed at COP27.
- **Scaling up provision of public finance to beyond \$100 billion per annum** in line with needs of developing countries. **Alignment of all private and public financial flows** with climate objectives.

A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- COP28 should ensure that both Indigenous Peoples and local communities are appropriately supported within a rights-based approach to protect, govern, and manage their traditional lands, enhance their traditional knowledge systems and sustain their livelihoods, as well as their contributions to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

EMPOWERING YOUTH AND WOMEN

- COP28 must ensure that parties commit to delivering on their promises of food system transformation. To ensure sustainability and equity, youth and women must be appropriately supported, supported within a rights-based approach, providing mechanisms meaningful participation, sustain and enhance their access to finance and to just livelihoods.

MULTI-LEVEL ACTION: CITIES ARE KEY

- Cities represent 70% of food consumption and use almost 80% of the total energy produced in the world, with a continuing trend towards more urbanization. Therefore, the role of urban and peri-urban food systems – including the collaboration with local authorities in food systems transformation through the creation of multi-level governance mechanisms – is important to materialize actions in NAPs, NDCs and LTS. Cities should be included in discussions and have a voice in negotiations related to food systems and climate.

ARTICLE 6: MARKET AND NON-MARKET MECHANISMS

- While NDCs and non-state (corporate) actor goals emphasize land-based mitigation, the Land Gap Report revealed this approach is unsustainable, requiring a land area three times India's size to meet NDCs alone. Enhancing Article 6 standards and transparency could reduce this land burden. With the Article 6 rulebook finally in place, it's time to focus on the implementation of the Market and non-Market Mechanisms. The flaws of the rapidly growing Voluntary Carbon Markets and the controversial practice of making carbon neutrality and offset claims must be addressed properly, and even consider their elimination.

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