

Dear Parties to the UNFCCC,

Our food systems are a critical lever to deliver the Paris Agreement and build a sustainable, equitable and resilient future that enables people and nature to prosper. **We, a global coalition of over 80 organisations and individuals, are writing to [reinforce the urgency](#) of integrating a food systems approach within the UNFCCC at COP28.**

The science is clear: reducing emissions from food systems and harnessing the adaptation and mitigation potential of land is essential to reach Paris Agreement goals. Food systems are a significant contributor to the climate crisis, accounting [for one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions](#). At the same time they are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which undermines food security and adaptation.

Global and national leaders must take action on food systems¹ as a whole if we are going to keep 1.5°C alive. A food systems approach that looks at emissions beyond agricultural² production - including food waste, consumption, biodiversity loss and land use change - is crucial to achieve our mitigation and adaptation objectives. Managing competing needs for land and water from energy, food production and biodiversity protection will also be essential to safeguard the carbon capture benefits of our natural resources. [IPCC findings](#) highlight that both supply-side and demand-side interventions are critical to enhancing food systems resilience and delivering adaptation strategies. By addressing food systems as a whole, we can drive equitable, resilient and just approaches to adapt and mitigate climate change while ensuring global food and nutrition security based on the common but differentiated responsibilities principle. The [UN's Global Stocktake synthesis report](#) offers a clear call to action; we **will not achieve the Paris Agreement goals without urgently transforming our food systems.**

Through the **outcome of the First Global Stocktake** and the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action, we hope governments around the world will **make a political statement that acknowledges the role of food systems in the climate agenda. The final outcomes of COP28 must include a clear way forward to spur ambitious food systems transformation nationally.** We are therefore urging Parties to:

1). Integrate a holistic approach to food systems within the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SSJW). Research and expertise [shows](#) this is an important step in achieving the type of systems transformation that the Paris Agreement requires.

- This means including a food systems approach within the agreed SSJW “roadmap” and designating this as a key action area within a [workshop](#). In the

¹ The food system can be defined as encompassing all the activities and actors in the production, transport, manufacturing, retailing, consumption, and waste of food, and their impacts on nutrition, health and well-being, and the environment ([IPCC](#)). We also acknowledge the importance of soil health, land use systems, fisheries, water resource stewardship, aquaculture and agroecology within the food system.

² “Agriculture” refers to terrestrial agriculture and also to production of aquatic foods via capture fisheries and aquaculture.

context of the new joint work, taking a food systems approach would at a minimum encompass three key elements: nature-positive food production, healthy sustainable diets and nutrition, and food loss and waste.

2). Include food systems actions into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Determined Contribution (NDCs), and Long-term Strategies before COP30.

- Integrating food systems actions with high potential for both mitigation and adaptation into NAPs, NDCs, and Long-term Strategies means creating and implementing policies and incentives for actions such as sustainable food production, reducing food loss and waste, shifting towards healthy and sustainable diets and improved nutrition, conserving and restoring ecosystems, as well as scaling healthy soil practices.

These actions must be established through inclusive and participatory governance and account for the interfaces between food systems and human rights, gender equality and livelihoods . In particular with communities and stakeholders most impacted by the climate crisis and food insecurity, not only to discuss challenges and opportunities, but to co-create solutions and learn from their expertise.

As a community, we are standing ready to support efforts that accelerate ambitious action towards sustainable, resilient, healthy and equitable food systems. We also offer our support to the climate negotiation process by providing evidence, sharing knowledge, and hosting conversations and debates.

We urge negotiators to consider the opportunities offered by fully integrating actions across food systems in the UNFCCC and rapidly shift to national implementation. COP28 is a critical stepping stone in fixing our food systems and safeguarding food and nutrition security for people and humanity. **Let's seize this opportunity.**

Sincerely,

Individuals: **Kirsten Schuijt**, Director-General, WWF International; **Morgan Gillespy**, Global Director of the Food and Land Use Coalition; **Paul Polman**, Business leader, campaigner, co-author of "Net Positive"; **Jennifer Morris**, Chief Executive Officer of The Nature Conservancy; **Gerda Verburg**, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Founder and Director of IMPACT 3.0; **Ertharin Cousin**, Founder and CEO Food Systems for the Future, former executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme; **Naoko Ishii**, Director, Center for Global Commons, University of Tokyo; **Ann Tutwiler**, Senior Fellow with Meridian Institute, Senior Advisor to the Transforming Urban Rural Food Systems Consortium (TURFS); **Feike Sijbesma**, Co-Chair Global Center on Adaptation, Co-Chair Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders, Honorary Chairman DSM, Founder Darwin International; **Shenggen Fan**, Dean of Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), Chair Professor of China Agricultural University(CAU) and Former Director General of IFPRI.

Organisations: WWF; Food and Land Use Coalition; Food Systems Partnership; Environmental Defense Fund; EAT Foundation; CGIAR; Clim-Eat; Ikea Foundation; The Nature Conservancy; UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network; The Global FoodBanking Network; One Acre Fund; SNV Netherlands Development Organisation; Food at COP; WRAP; Climate Advisors; EIT Food; Scaling Up Nutrition movement; Care International; Jeremy Coller Foundation; Consumers International; Food Systems for the Future; Food Tank; Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition; Alliance for Sustainable Development; World Animal Protection; Columbia Climate School; Real Food Systems Youth Network; Concito; Mercy for Animals; Humundi; National Cancer Fund Netherlands; Avant; Iles de Paix; Yara International; IFA; Impact 3.0; Aleph Farms; Ethical Farming Ireland; Planet Tracker; SM Sunrise Global Visions; Compassion in World Farming; Coalition on Action 4 Soil Health; UPL; Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network (YARN); International "4 per 1000" Initiative; Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition; National Young Farmers Coalition US; Plant Based Treaty; YOUNGO Food & Agriculture Working Group; YPARD; Yaşamdan Yana Derneği; Proveg; Unilever; Africa-Europe Foundation; The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD); Umanotera; Sustainable Soils Alliance; Mosa Meat B.V.; Cellular Agriculture Europe; Global Cellular Agriculture Alliance; The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); European Carbon Farmers; The Farm of Francesco; BlueNalu; ICLEI; International Agri-Food Network (the elected Focal Point for the Private Sector Mechanism of the UN Committee on World Food Security); Future Economy Forum; NOW Partners Foundation; Blended Finance Taskforce; Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (Africa CSID); People Environment and Sustainability Foundation; Access to Nutrition Initiative; Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global; Agreea; SDG2 Advocacy Hub; Good Food Institute; Netherlands Food Institute; Instituto Regenera; Stop Financing Factory Farming; Brighter Green; Marvin; Technoserve





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