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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

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Update on the FAO Strategy on Climate Change

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. Background

1. Based on the recommendations of the *Evaluation of FAO's Support to Climate Action (SDG 13) and the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017)*,¹ FAO Members requested at the 166th Session of the Council “inclusive consultations ahead of the 168th Session of the Council to start the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change”.² FAO developed the new Strategy on Climate Change (SCC)³ 2022-31 through an inclusive and consultative process, engaging FAO Members and experts at headquarters and decentralized offices and external partners. Through the SCC, FAO seeks to enhance its support to Members in their efforts with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation, working towards climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems while striving to achieve the SDGs. The final draft Strategy was considered by the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022) and endorsed by the 170th Session of the Council (13-17 June 2022)⁵.

II. Relevance to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

2. The SCC will be implemented in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31⁶, which aims to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind. Given the cross-cutting nature of FAO's work on climate change, the SCC is closely linked to these *four betters* and contributes to their achievement. The *four betters* represent an organizing principle on how FAO intends to contribute directly to SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), as well as supporting the achievement of the broader SDG agenda. With the new SCC, FAO will accelerate its contribution to SDG 13 (climate action) and, through synergies, to other SDGs.

III. Recommendations of the FAO Regional Conferences

3. Recalling the already tangible impacts of climate change on agrifood systems, the Regional Conferences welcomed the timeliness of the development of the SCC.⁷ The transparent and inclusive Strategy preparation process was commended. The Regional Conferences recommended FAO to finalise the SCC and quickly start its implementation and enhancing support to Members in solving their respective climate concerns while considering regional and national circumstances, contexts and priorities. They emphasised access to investment and financial resources as well as data, knowledge and technical innovations. Furthermore, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and engagement of women, youth, Indigenous People and people in vulnerable situations were highlighted.

IV. Relevance to the work of the Committee on Fisheries

4. Climate change has featured prominently in recent sessions of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI). In the 35th COFI session, climate change is also included as one agenda item. Evidence is accumulating of both short-term climate risks and longer-term slow onset changes in climate^{8,9} that

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/cb3738en/cb3738en.pdf>

² FAO 2021. Report of the 166th Session of the FAO Council [para 24. i) (ii)] <http://www.fao.org/3/nf693en/nf693en.pdf>

³ See also document COFI/2022/7

⁴ FAO 170th Session Council report <https://www.fao.org/3/nj485en/nj485en.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/nj485en/nj485en.pdf>

⁶ FAO 2021. *The Strategic Framework 2022-2031*. Rome. FAO. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>

⁷ Reports of the Regional Conferences are available at <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/en/>

⁸ IPCC. 2021. *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu and B. Zhou, eds. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report.pdf

⁹ IPCC. 2022. *Summary for Policymakers*. In: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem,

affect fisheries and aquaculture production and agrifood systems with impacts on natural resources, livelihoods, food security and nutrition. These require a range of efficient climate resilience and adaptation actions built on healthy ecosystems. At the same time, agrifood systems (including aquatic food production) are called to contribute to addressing concerns related to greenhouse gas emissions. The FAO SCC with its implementation and expected outcomes at global, regional, national and local levels is thus highly relevant to most of the work under the mandate of COFI.

V. Summary of main elements of the Strategy

Vision

5. Agrifood systems are sustainable, inclusive, resilient and adaptive to climate change and its impacts, and contribute to low-emission economies while providing sufficient, safe and nutritious food for healthy diets, as well as other agricultural products and services, for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

Impact FAO wants to achieve

6. FAO Members and agrifood systems stakeholders accelerate their climate action for agrifood systems to become MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient, low-emission and sustainable, leading to improved food security and nutrition.

Scope and content of SCC

7. The FAO Strategy on Climate Change covers all areas of agrifood systems, including crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and related value chains, ecosystems and livelihoods, and people dependent on them.

Guiding principles

8. The Strategy is based on 10 guiding principles:
- i. Take an agrifood systems approach;
 - ii. Put farmers, livestock keepers, fishers, aquaculturists and forest-dependent people at the centre;
 - iii. Embrace good practices and innovations;
 - iv. Build on science-based evidence, including open science and data;
 - v. Promote country-driven climate action for sustainable results;
 - vi. Deliver through strategic partnerships;
 - vii. Mainstream gender equality, youth engagement, Indigenous People's participation and social inclusiveness;
 - viii. Support inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches;
 - ix. Scale up support; and
 - x. Adopt a "no one size fits all" approach.

Pillars and Outcomes

9. The Strategy is structured around three pillars:
- a. Global and regional levels: strengthening global and regional climate policy and governance;
 - b. Country level: developing countries' capacities for climate action; and
 - c. Local level: scaling up climate action on the ground

Monitoring Success

10. The SCC will be implemented through a regularly reviewed Action Plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the SCC implementation require setting specific targets and indicators that are adequately disaggregated to capture the effects and impacts of interventions on different population segments. To the extent possible, these will be harmonized with those of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and aligned with the Paris Agreement milestones and the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Monitoring Framework.