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# PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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**Update on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change  
2022-2031**

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

Mr Zitouni Ould-Dada  
Deputy-Director  
Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment  
Tel: (+39) 06 570 50167  
Email: [OCB-Director@fao.org](mailto:OCB-Director@fao.org)

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Following the endorsement of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022 – 2031<sup>1</sup> at the 170th Session<sup>2</sup> of the Council in June 2022, FAO has taken action to ensure its implementation. This includes greater visibility and advocacy during international events, in particular the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the mainstreaming of climate activities in all FAO areas of work, including through the development of an Action Plan.
- The development of the Action Plan has been informed by inputs received from FAO Members, FAO Senior Management, FAO technical divisions/units and FAO Decentralized Offices during the various formal and informal consultations conducted for the preparation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and since its endorsement.
- The first draft Action Plan was then presented, for comments and feedback, to the three Technical Committees at their respective sessions: the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG28), the 25th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI35) and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26). The draft Action Plan was also considered by the review task force composed of focal points at FAO's technical divisions and Decentralized Offices.
- The final draft was further shared with FAO units in headquarters and Decentralized Offices for further review and input. The revised final draft version will be shared with FAO Members for written feedback.

### GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- The Programme Committee is invited to take note of this document.

## **I. Implementation of the Strategy and its Pillars**

1. Since the endorsement of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022 – 2031<sup>3</sup> at the 170th Session<sup>4</sup> of the Council in June 2022, FAO has ensured continuity in the delivery of the implementation of its climate action by taking immediate and concrete steps at global, regional, national and local level.

2. Throughout 2022, FAO advocated for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems addressing climate change impacts during international events, such as the World Food Forum in particular the Global Youth Forum<sup>5</sup> and the Science and Innovation Forum<sup>6</sup> in October 2022, as well as the Rome Water Dialogue<sup>7</sup> in November 2022.

3. In the context of the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), FAO has supported the global momentum around agrifood systems in international negotiations on climate change. In particular, FAO has

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2274en/cc2274en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj485en/nj485en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2274en/cc2274en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj485en/nj485en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.world-food-forum.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/science-technology-and-innovation/science-innovation-forum/programme/en>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fao.org/members-gateway/news/detail/en/c/1618086/>

reinforced its contribution and presence through the establishment of the first Food and Agriculture Pavilion, hosted in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation and the CGIAR System Organization. About 70 side-events have been organized to proactively advocate about linkages between agriculture and food systems, food security and climate change.

4. FAO has been committed to support global efforts prior and during COP27, in particular the Egyptian Presidency, for the launch of three global initiatives: Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARE), for a better use of water resources; the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), for improved nutrition in a context of climate change; and the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Initiative, for improved quantity and quality of climate finance contributions to transform agrifood systems. FAO will continue to offer its expertise and support for the successful implementation of these initiatives, including by hosting the FAST Initiative.

5. At the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), FAO advocated and presented its Strategy on Climate Change emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming the linkages between biodiversity and climate change in agriculture and for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

6. Since the endorsement of the Strategy, FAO has remained committed to support its Members in their efforts to update and implement their nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) and their national adaptation plans (NAPs), and advocates for a more ambitious integration of agrifood systems in the climate commitments to achieve the vision of the Strategy, through programmes such as “Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans”<sup>8</sup> (SCALA), implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

7. Similarly, FAO has continued to develop and implement programmes and projects targeting the most vulnerable and ensuring concrete actions at local level, building-upon successful examples such as through the second phase of the project “Strengthening Agricultural Adaptation” (SAGA)<sup>9</sup>, in Côte d’Ivoire, Haiti and Senegal, as well as a new commitment for supporting Egypt on the adaptation to climate change of poor and the most vulnerable people in the rural areas.

8. For enhancing knowledge-sharing and science-based decision-making, FAO has continued to provide its expertise in the development of knowledge products about agrifood systems in relation to climate change. For example, FAO has published a technical paper on “Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees”<sup>10</sup> prepared in collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and other partners.

9. The mainstreaming of the ambition to transform agrifood systems is already at the centre of FAO’s work through the publication of papers such as “Sustainable and circular bioeconomy in the climate agenda: Opportunities to transform agrifood systems”<sup>11</sup>. Other publications are planned in 2023 as the Action Plan is being implemented, for instance on opportunities from carbon markets, or on priority actions for climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture for 2022-2030 in line with the Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the Blue Transformation Roadmap 2022-2030<sup>12,13</sup>.

10. Overall, FAO remains committed to regularly assess the progress made in implementing its Action Plan, which is under preparation (see section II), including the follow-up actions indicated in the Management Response to the Evaluation of FAO’s contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: “Climate Action”. This continuous effort will also be central in evaluating and monitoring the successful implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change and its Action Plan.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-and-quebec-ramp-up-climate-adaptation-efforts-in-c%C3%B4te-d-ivoire-haiti-and-senegal/en>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2886en>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2668en>

<sup>12</sup> See paragraph 24 of COFI/2022/7, available here: <https://www.fao.org/3/nj406en/nj406en.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0459en/cc0459en.pdf>

## II. Development of the Action Plan

### A. Background

11. The development of the Action Plan has been informed by inputs received from FAO Members, FAO Senior Management, FAO technical divisions/units and FAO Decentralized Offices during the various formal and informal consultations conducted for the preparation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and since its endorsement.

12. The first draft Action Plan was presented to the three Technical Committees (COAG28<sup>14</sup>, COFI35<sup>15</sup> and COFO26<sup>16</sup>), for comments and feedback, in 2022. It was also considered by a review task force composed of focal points at FAO's technical divisions and Decentralized Offices. The draft was further shared with FAO units in headquarters and Decentralized Offices for further review and input. The final draft will be shared with FAO Members for written feedback.

### B. Objectives of the Action Plan

13. The purpose of the Action Plan is to operationalize and implement the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022 – 2031 (the Strategy), illustrating how FAO enhances 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 Sustainable Development Goals, in particular eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

14. It promotes actions and interventions that have the potential to induce transformational changes in the international and regional arena, the national agrifood systems and in the practices and capacities of the farmers, forest managers, forest-dependent people, land and water managers, fisherfolks and aquaculturists, and communities as central agents of change. It also reflects, to the extent possible, sectoral and regional needs, priorities, initiatives and partnerships for climate action in the agrifood systems.

15. The Action Plan is based on the key elements of the Strategy, including the vision, the three Pillars, and their outcomes.

16. To ensure a coherent and harmonized implementation of the three Pillars, the Action Plan introduces a cross-cutting outcome on the enhancement of FAO's own operational modalities, with a particular focus on capacity development, resource mobilization, partnerships and communications.

### C. Alignment with the Strategic Framework

17. The Action Plan ensures consistency and alignment with the Strategic Framework 2022 – 2031<sup>17</sup> including by linking all outputs to FAO core functions as well as to the relevant Priority Programme Areas (PPAs), in particular BE1 “Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems”. In addition, the Action Plan contributes to the objectives established in one of the Value-Added Impact Areas (VAIA) under *better environment*, namely the “Climate Action for Resilient Agriculture Transformation” (CARAT).

18. The Action Plan is aligned with the Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and, therefore, covers the same timeframe.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ni992en/ni992en.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj406en/nj406en.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/nj915en/nj915en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>

#### *D. Synergies with FAO strategic documents*

19. The Action Plan seeks complementarities and interlinkages with FAO strategic documents, such as the Strategy on Science and Innovation<sup>18</sup>, Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition<sup>19</sup>, FAO Strategy on Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025<sup>20</sup>, FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030<sup>21</sup>, FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors<sup>22</sup>, and the FAO Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2020-2030<sup>23</sup>.

#### *E. Feedback from the consultations*

20. Set clear priorities for climate action: It was recommended to ensure that the formulation of the draft outputs presented to the Technical Committees provides more clarity about the different actions that would be conducted to successfully implement the objectives of the Strategy. It was also suggested during the internal consultation with FAO personnel to streamline the initial version of the outputs, for instance, based on the core functions listed in the Strategic Framework, following the example of the 2021–2023 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors<sup>24</sup>.

21. To ensure more clarity while building on the version submitted to the Technical Committees and FAO personnel, an additional layer has been added between the outcomes and the draft outputs. This intermediary level recalls FAO core functions presented in the Strategic Framework. Also, the initial outputs have been reviewed, and when needed, clustered or reformulated.

22. Establish priorities for climate action at sectoral and regional levels: FAO Members commented on ensuring that the priorities for climate action would also grant a place for all sectors across agrifood systems. Similarly, it was suggested that the Action Plan ensures context-specificity, with activities at all levels of action: global, regional, national and local.

23. The Action Plan, through its structure articulated around the Strategy's three pillars, organizes FAO action at global, national, and local levels. In particular through its Pillar 3, the Action Plan recognizes the need for and importance of context-specific measures. Also, the diversity of agricultural sectors and local stakeholders working in them is recognized in the formulation of most outputs.

24. Consider the human and financial implications of the Strategy: The Technical Committees have requested more information about the human and financial implications of the Strategy and its implementation. A strong consensus was reached on the importance of mobilizing resources to ensure a successful implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.

25. The Action Plan considers the important aspects of technical capacity and financial resources as central to its implementation.

26. Provide FAO Members with updates on progress: FAO Members have requested that regular updates on progress made in the development and implementation of the Action Plan are provided to the Governing Bodies. They also requested opportunities to be given for their guidance on the development of the Action Plan.

- a) Regular updates have been provided to the Governing Bodies on the development of the Action Plan. The guidance received during the Technical Committees, the Programme Committee and the Council has been central in the formulation of the Action Plan.
- b) FAO has submitted a first draft of the Action Plan for feedback from the Technical Committees and FAO personnel on the formulation and structuration of the pillars, outcomes, and outputs.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ne853en/ne853en.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3352en/cb3352en.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb1583en/cb1583en.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ca7722en/ca7722en.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4218en/cb4218en.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb5515en/cb5515en.pdf>

- c) FAO will submit the final draft to FAO Members for written comments.
- d) As part of the monitoring and reporting to demonstrate the level of impact in FAO's delivery, FAO is committed to update its Members through the Governing Bodies on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy.

#### *F. Monitoring and reporting*

- 27. The Action Plan provides modalities to measure progress and results achieved towards reaching the vision, impact and expected outcomes of the Strategy.
- 28. The action areas will be monitored through a series of indicators of the FAO Strategic Framework which are associated with the Priority Programme Areas (PPAs) under the *four betters*, focusing the reporting on climate-related actions.
- 29. The monitoring and reporting on the Action Plan will be carried out through the preparation and the submission of a progress report every two years as part of the Programme Implementation Report.
- 30. The next progress report is due for 2022-2023 and will be presented to the Programme Committee's spring Session in 2024. This way, the reporting is aligned with the general FAO reporting under the FAO Strategic Framework, the FAO Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025, and therefore with the delivery on the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### *G. Review and update*

- 31. The Action Plan is a "living document" that will be regularly reviewed and updated to take into account relevant new developments in the field and annual updates to be received from FAO's technical divisions/units and Decentralized Offices.
- 32. The Action Plan will also be informed by outcomes of FAO Governing Bodies work, the UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and other relevant decisions from the other Rio Conventions, as well as progress in achieving the SDGs.
- 33. A mid-term review of the Strategy will be discussed at the FAO Council five years after the adoption of the Strategy.