

### Web Annex 3

#### Update on the COP29 in Baku, COP16 in Saudi Arabia and CBD COP16 in Colombia

1. Agrifood systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, while also substantially contributing to the reinforcement of these crises due to persistent unsustainable practices.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, agrifood systems hold the solutions to major interlinked challenges faced by people and the planet, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, food insecurity and poverty.
2. Global biodiversity and climate and land degradation neutrality goals are unattainable without agrifood system solutions. As the specialized United Nations (UN) agency for food and agriculture, FAO plays a fundamental role in the global discussions under the three Rio Conventions to ensure the consideration of agrifood solutions in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, while also achieving food security and nutrition, facilitate their full integration into national planning processes and strategies, as well as support their implementation, scale-up and uptake by smallholder farmers and producers to achieve an inclusive and sustainable transformation of agrifood systems.
3. For several years, FAO has adopted a consistent approach across the Rio Conventions to promote action through transformation of agrifood systems by informing negotiations towards ambitious agreements and Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions, supporting the COP Presidencies in ensuring a central narrative around the role of food and agriculture, and encouraging multistakeholder partnerships and engagement, including through dedicated days.
4. The back-to-back organization of the COP16 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the COP29 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the COP16 to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCDD) represented a decisive moment for FAO to raise global ambition and accelerate action on all three environmental agendas.
5. The CBD COP16 is scheduled to take place from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, with Colombia hosting the presidency of the conference.
6. Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), FAO is assisting governments around the world for a better consideration of food and agriculture in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and facilitating access to finance for their successful implementation. For instance, FAO has supported more than 40 countries in the development and implementation of NBSAPs so far. FAO also supported 13 countries to develop and submit proposals to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) during the second round, and ten countries in the third round that ended on 30 September 2024.
7. FAO continues to provide its normative and technical expertise towards the achievement of the KM-GBF. To this date, the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub<sup>2</sup> gathers more than 370 FAO policy guidance, tools, learning materials and other resources that have been assessed as contributing to one or more targets of the framework. FAO plays an important role in the development and implementation of the monitoring framework for the KM-GBF. Over 20 indicators are either under FAO custodianship or are led by FAO in their development process. Data produced by FAO is also used in a broad range of other KM-GBF indicators.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO. 2023. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2023 – Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7724en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/knowledge-hub/en>

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8. FAO facilitated negotiations through technical assistance and training to delegations, as well as participation in intersessional processes, and has produced several documents<sup>3</sup> for consideration by COP16, including draft decisions.

9. FAO has worked closely with the CBD COP16 Colombia Presidency to frame the Presidency Initiative “World Coalition for Peace with Nature: A Call for Life” from the perspective of food security. Similarly, FAO co-organized, together with the CBD and the COP Presidency, the Food Day in the KM-GBF Pavilion on 28 October 2024, and the Restoration Day with CBD, the UN Environment Programme and other partners on 30 October 2024. During the High-Level Segment of COP16, FAO is expected to co-host a Ministerial Luncheon, together with the CBD and the COP Presidency, to launch the “Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative” to support governments’ efforts in integrating biodiversity into agrifood systems and achieving their biodiversity commitments through NBSAPs.

10. The UNFCCC COP29 is scheduled to take place from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, with Azerbaijan hosting the presidency of the conference.

11. Through the Agrifood Sharm-el-Sheik Support Programme, FAO is supporting regional consultation and capacity building of negotiators in all regions and will engage with UNFCCC Secretariat to promote the implementation of the road map<sup>4</sup> adopted during the 60th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC (SB 60) under the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.<sup>5</sup>

12. FAO has mobilized support to countries in the elaboration, implementation, reporting and update of their national commitments,<sup>6</sup> mostly nationally determined contributions (NDC), national adaptation plans, long-term low emission development strategies and biennial transparency reports, for instance through the SCALA+ programme,<sup>7</sup> co-led by FAO and UN Development Programme, and the development of a global analysis of agrifood systems in NDCs,<sup>8</sup> launched at UNFCCC COP29.

13. FAO collaborates with the Azerbaijani UNFCCC COP29 Presidency in developing the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers, which provides a collaborative platform for existing coalitions, initiatives, partnerships and networks related to agrifood systems, and contributes to clarifying the landscape of climate finance.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, FAO follows with interest two other UNFCCC COP29 Presidency initiatives and declarations<sup>10</sup> on Water for Climate Action and Methane Reduction from Organic Waste.

14. FAO has enhanced its collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat and its constituted bodies, in particular the Technology Executive Committee, with the development of a joint publication on climate technologies, officially presented at UNFCCC COP29. Similarly, FAO will host the 2025 Standing Committee on Finance Forum which will focus on “accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture” in September 2025.

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<sup>3</sup> See mostly CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1; CBD/COP/16/INF/3; CBD/COP/16/INF/4; CBD/COP/16/INF/5; CBD/COP/16/11; CBD/COP/16/INF/7; CBD/COP/16/INF/15; CBD/COP/16/INF/12; CBD/COP/16/INF/13; CBD/COP/16/INF/14; CBD/COP/16/INF/20

<sup>4</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2024\\_L02E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2024_L02E.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/action-areas/climate-negotiations/sharm-el-sheikh-joint-work/en>

<sup>6</sup> More information on how FAO supports developing countries on their nationally determined contributions: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/44675b9f-f196-4a84-9b41-06dbc8f8d3de>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en>

<sup>8</sup> Crumpler, K., Angioni, C., Prosperi, P., Roffredi, L., Salvatore, M., Tanganelli, E., Umulisa, V., Wybieralska, A., Dahlet, G., Wolf, J. and Bernoux, M. 2024. *Agrifood systems in Nationally Determined Contributions: Global Analysis. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*. Rome, Italy.

<sup>9</sup> The Harmoniya initiative contributes to the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation partnership, initiated by the Egyptian COP27 Presidency and the secretariat of which is hosted by FAO.

<sup>10</sup> <https://cop29.az/en/pages/cop29-presidency-action-agenda-letter>

15. The COP16 to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is scheduled to take place from 2 to 13 December 2024 in Riyadh, with Saudi Arabia hosting the presidency of the conference.
16. FAO is involved in supporting the UNCCD COP16 Presidency initiatives focusing on the restoration of degraded agricultural land and on early warning of sand and dust storms.
17. FAO also supports UNCCD and the COP 16 Presidency by co-leading the Agri-food Systems Day on 5 December 2024 and the Governance Day on 6 December 2024, and by contributing to thematic days focusing on drought (Resilience and Finance Days), gender mainstreaming and social inclusion (People's Day), sand and dust storms, and science and land days.
18. To support its Members achieve their commitments under the UNCCD, FAO is actively engaged in enhancing land restoration and sustainable land management practices, for instance through numerous restoration initiatives, such as Africa's Great Green Wall Initiative, the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
19. In view of the next reporting cycle of UNCCD (Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System 5), FAO will support, in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat, a first group of 20 countries to report on land degradation neutrality with a participatory, multistakeholder and intersectoral approach, building on nationally relevant data. Similarly, FAO is assisting countries in implementing their national drought plans through two GEF enabling activities projects, jointly executed by FAO and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. FAO is also implementing the GEF-7 funded Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program.
20. Since 2022, UNCCD and FAO have implemented a joint initiative to support members integrate tenure<sup>11</sup> into their land restoration programmes. To date, 32 countries have requested assistance and five have been effectively supported in 2023-2024 (Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal, Sri Lanka). The first outcomes of the joint initiative are scheduled to be presented at UNCCD COP 16 on Governance Day.
21. FAO has developed a range of tools and knowledge products to promote land degradation neutrality, such as an integrated land use planning tool, drought and resilience action plans, and water road maps, and recently updated its guidelines for integrated planning for sustainable management of land resources.<sup>12</sup> The Organization has provided support to the science and policy interface cycle 2022-2024 through the production of two reports: (a) on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought, while also contributing to the achievement of multiple UN goals and targets, taking into account environmental, economic and sociocultural conditions; and (b) on the historical regional and global aridity trends and future projections that may contribute to expanding drylands and affected populations, and the adaptation approaches that reduce risks to environmental, social and economic systems. Finally, FAO also assisted the UNCCD Gender Caucus through a joint UNCCD-FAO research report on women-led solutions for drought resilience, launched on 15 October 2024.

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<sup>11</sup> Following UNCCD COP15 decision: [https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/27\\_cop15.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/27_cop15.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fao.org/land-water/land/land-governance/land-resources-planning-toolbox/category/details/en/c/1047631/>