

Web Annex 4:

Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Update on the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

1. The 28th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change took place from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, under the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates. COP28 played a significant role in acknowledging the importance of agrifood systems in addressing climate change. Several decisions made during COP28 have recognized the vulnerability of agrifood systems to climate change, as well as the potential they hold for finding solutions for adaptation and mitigation.
2. The outcome of the *First Global Stocktake*¹ recognized the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, encouraging the implementation of sustainable land-use management, agriculture and food systems, and emphasized the importance of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.
3. The decision on the *Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)*² urged countries to attain climate-resilient agricultural production, supply and distribution of food; increase sustainable and regenerative production; ensure equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all; address water scarcity; and mitigate the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. Furthermore, under the GGA, countries decided that National Adaptation Plans should be developed and submitted to the UNFCCC by 2025 and the first reporting should take place in 2030. In this regard, a two-year United Arab Emirates – Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards adaptation targets was established. In the forthcoming 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 60)³ which will place from 3 to 13 June 2024, countries will continue to work on developing indicators for measuring adaptation; FAO has provided its views on the indicators through a submission.⁴
4. Under the COP28 Presidency's agenda, the *COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action* (COP28 UAE Declaration) was endorsed by 159 countries,⁵ and emphasized the crucial role that agrifood systems play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Under the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda, the UAE Presidency convened a group of key partners supporting nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and NAP planning and implementation across a wide range of countries and food and agriculture systems. These partners consolidated existing experiences, lessons and resources to accelerate ambitious climate action in agrifood systems for a global audience. The members of the task force, which included the Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Climate Focus, FAO, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, the NDC Partnership and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), collaborated to synthesize existing guidance material and lessons on NDC

¹ Concluding text available here: [Decision 1/CMA.5](#)

² Concluding text available here: [Decision 2/CMA.5](#)

³ <https://unfccc.int/sb60>

⁴ FAO Submission here: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202403281557---FAO_submission_on_Global_Goal_on_Adaptation.pdf

⁵ <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>

and NAP implementation for food systems transformation and developed the *COP28 Agriculture, Food and Climate National Action Toolkit*.⁶

5. Additionally, the COP28 Presidency, FAO, the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank established the Agrifood Sharm-El Sheikh Support Program, aiming to facilitate dialogue among agriculture negotiators and foster knowledge exchange and integration of the COP agriculture-related decisions into national policies. The Program supported two regional dialogues in Asia and the Pacific and Africa during March and April 2024, helping countries to prepare and frame their positions to the SB 60.

6. Despite these advancements, under the UNFCCC, there is, since 2023, a lack of consensus on how to effectively implement climate action in agriculture under the ongoing “Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security”.⁷ Countries will continue to work on this matter during the SB 60, aiming to reach consensus for the next steps.

7. The newly established Loss and Damage Fund,⁸ which will be hosted by the World Bank, while functioning as an independent entity under the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism, presents both challenges and opportunities, highlighting the complexity of the issues faced, and the potential solutions offered by agrifood systems to combat climate change. At the same time the Secretariat of the Santiago Network⁹ will facilitate knowledge exchange and link countries with the technical expertise to address loss and damage. The Secretariat will be based in Geneva, co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with FAO supporting the process as a technical agency.

8. Looking ahead, the SB 60 and the future COP29 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, provide an opportunity to build upon the progress achieved in Dubai during COP28. The main objective for both Conferences is to establish a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and encourage countries to submit the first biennial transparency reports due by 31 December 2024, and prepare their updated NDCs (3.0) due by February 2025. The COP28 (United Arab Emirates), COP29 (Azerbaijan) and COP30 (Brazil) Presidencies launched “a set of activities (Roadmap to Mission 1.5 °C) to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of nationally determined contributions, with a view to enhancing action and implementation over this critical decade and keeping 1.5 °C within reach”.¹⁰

9. FAO is already working with the COP29 Presidency (Azerbaijan), to ensure COP-to-COP legacy of agrifood systems solutions, as well as the integration of issues related to agriculture, food security and water, the COP28 UAE Declaration and the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership¹¹ into their priorities.

Outcomes of the Sixtieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

10. The seventh assessment cycle of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) formally started in July 2023 with the election of Professor Jim Skea as IPCC Chairperson and the elections of the different co-chairpersons. The Sixtieth Session of the IPCC, held in Istanbul, Türkiye,

⁶ FAO Submission here: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc9049en>

⁷ [Decision 3/CP.27](#)

⁸ Concluding text available here: [Decision 5/CMA.5](#)

⁹ Concluding text available here: [Decision 2/CP.28](#)

¹⁰ Specific text available here: [Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraph 191.](#)

¹¹ More information related to FAST here: <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/action-areas/access-to-climate-finance/fast/en>

from 16 to 19 January 2024, was the first meeting for this new cycle with decisions¹² on its work plan for the coming years, including on the products and timeline.

11. The Sixtieth Session adopted the programme of work for the seventh cycle, which will provide a comprehensive Assessment Report (AR7) consisting of three working group (WG) contributions, respectively the WG I report on the physical science basis; WG II report on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and WG III report on mitigation of climate change. In addition, a synthesis report of the seventh assessment report will be produced after the completion of the Working Group reports and released by late 2029. The next session, in July 2024 (to be confirmed), will discuss the AR7 strategic plan for the delivery of these reports.

12. In addition to this IPCC flagship publication, a distinct product revising and updating the 1994 *IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations*,¹³ including adaptation indicators, metrics and methodologies, will be scoped, developed, reviewed and should be considered for approval and acceptance in conjunction with the WG II Report. This product will be published as a separate product of the AR7.

13. This IPCC cycle will also deliver a special report (SR) and a methodology report (MR). The SR will focus on climate change and cities and it should be provided in early 2027. The *Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers*¹⁴ will be developed under the lead of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) by 2027. An initial meeting for this MR was held in Brisbane, Australia from 26 to 28 February 2024, inviting experts to develop the scope of this report, including elaborating a table of content, instructions to experts and authors, and a proposed title (tentatively: “2027 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Short-lived Climate Forcers”), for their further consideration during an IPCC session in July 2024. FAO experts participated in the above scoping meeting and will continue to support the implementation of this work if and when requested.

14. Furthermore, during the Sixtieth Session the panel decided to organize several expert meetings (EM) during this cycle. An EM on Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage will be held in Vienna, Austria from 1 to 3 July 2024. This meeting presents an important opportunity to gather and share information on the current state of the techniques available for the estimation of emissions and removals from a range of new carbon dioxide removal and capture, use and storage technologies.

15. Another EM on reconciling land use emissions has been approved and will be organized by the TFI and hosted by the European Commission in June 2024 at Ispra, Italy.¹⁵

16. Finally, responding to an invitation from the COP, the IPCC agreed to organize a workshop on the IPCC Inventory Software. This workshop will be organized by the TFI. FAO received the request, which is under consideration, from the TFI to host this specific workshop in August 2024. FAO and IPCC will explore other similar collaborations focusing on agriculture, food security and climate change.

¹² Decisions adopted here: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2024/02/IPCC-60_decisions_adopted_by_the_Panel.pdf

¹³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ipcc-technical-guidelines-for-assessing-climate-change-impacts-and-adaptations-2/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/methodology-report-on-short-lived-climate-forcers/>

¹⁵ See Annex 9 of [IPCC decisions](#) adopted at the Sixtieth Session.