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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

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Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

Executive Summary

At its 166th Session (26-30 April 2021), FAO's Council requested the development of a new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, following the recommendation made by the FAO Office of Evaluation in its recent *Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 13 on climate action) and the implementation of FAO's previous Strategy on Climate Change (2017)*.¹

FAO developed its Strategy on Climate Change 2022-31 (the Strategy) through a participatory process including internal and external consultations with FAO experts in headquarters and Decentralized Offices, FAO Senior Management, FAO Members and Governing Bodies, and key partners. The 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022) considered the final draft of the Strategy on Climate Change and the 170th Council (13-17 June 2022)² endorsed it.

This document is the starting point to develop an Action Plan that will support the operationalization and implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change. The Action Plan will be a living document to be developed and regularly updated following the adoption of the Strategy. To the extent possible, it should reflect sectoral as well as regional needs, priorities and initiatives for climate action in the agrifood systems.

This document presents the outcomes as described in the Strategy and suggests draft outputs based on the areas of action defined in the Strategy's section IV "Three pillars for enhanced action". Linkages between the proposed outputs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets, FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and FAO Core Functions are also presented. The Action Plan will be complemented by a results framework with indicators, targets, deliverables, responsibilities and timelines fully aligned with FAO's results framework established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

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

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

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I. Outcomes and draft outputs of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

1. The Action Plan will guide the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 (SCC or the Strategy)³⁴. To enable monitoring and reporting on the progress and impact of the SCC implementation, the Action Plan will comprise outcomes, outputs, indicators, targets, timelines and responsibilities. Monitoring and reporting require also setting specific indicators and targets for FAO's climate action that are adequately disaggregated to capture the effects and impacts of interventions on different population segments, including on men, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups.

2 As a first step towards the further development of the Action Plan, this document presents the outcomes as described in the Strategy and puts forward draft outputs based on the areas of action defined in the Strategy's section IV "Three pillars for enhanced action". The proposed logic and structure of FAO's climate action across the global, regional, national, and local level are illustrated in table 1. In this table, the clustered outputs shown under the outcomes constitute the core areas of FAO's climate activities. These outputs are achieved through activities at all intervention levels – global, regional, national and local. Indicators of progress will be aligned to the approach to monitoring and reporting of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The last columns of the proposed Action Plan illustrate the SDGs targets, Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and FAO Core Functions (CF) supported by the outputs. The overview of these is provided in the Annex. The proposed duration of the Action Plan is four years (2022-2025).

³ See also COFO/2022/INF/9

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

Table 1: Outcomes and draft outputs of the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change

I Pillar Global and Regional levels. Strengthened Global and Regional Climate Policy and Governance				
	Outcome 1.1 <i>Considerations of food security, nutrition, agrifood systems, natural resources and livelihoods are fully addressed in the international climate, environment, disaster risk, humanitarian and development agendas as part of the solution to the climate change, and climate finance for agrifood systems is supportive.</i>			
	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Support the integration of agrifood systems in climate action	1.1.1 Efficient, inclusive, resilient, low-emission and sustainable agrifood systems are recognized as part of the solution to climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and part of a broader sustainability agenda	2.4	BE1; BP1; BP4	2, 3
	1.1.2a Relevant initiatives and pledges are formulated, implemented and monitored, including those launched at UNFCCC COP 26 and future UNFCCC COPs	13.1; 13.a	BE1; BL6	2, 3, 5
	1.1.2b FAO Members and partners are supported in their preparations for the forthcoming sessions of the UNFCCC COPs	13.3; 13.b	BE1	2, 3, 5
	1.1.3 Agrifood systems considerations, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and related value chains, ecosystems and livelihoods are integrated in the key workstreams under UNFCCC	15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5	BE1; BE3; BP1	2, 3
	1.1.4 The energy-food-water-forest nexus is regionally and globally recognized as an approach for improving access to sustainable energy and energy efficiency and enhancing sustainable water management systems across all agrifood systems	6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 7.3	BP1	2, 3
	1.1.5 The sustainable use of marine living resources is better integrated with other uses of the oceans	14.2	BP2	3
	1.1.6 The climate and environment financing agendas recognize and support sustainable agrifood systems' contribution to climate action	13.a	BL6	3, 4
Promote innovation and collaboration	1.1.7 The role of agrifood systems innovations as a solution to climate change is recognized and expanded at global and regional levels	12.a	BE2	2, 3
	1.1.8 Stakeholders in agrifood systems and other sectors affected by climate change interact and exchange lessons learned, and climate, biodiversity, environment and humanitarian development agendas act reciprocally.	12.2, 12.4, 12.5	BE1; BE2	2
	Outcome 1.2 <i>The global community, countries and partners have access to and utilize data, science, evidence, tools, protocols, guidelines and standards related to climate change and agrifood systems that are collected and developed by FAO and partners, including for monitoring and reporting, climate vulnerability and risk analyses, assessment models and good practices and policies on climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.</i>			

	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Enable and enhance the use of data, information, digitalization and science	1.2.1 Data, science, information, knowledge, good practices, innovations, tools and technologies for climate action across agrifood systems are made available.	12.8, 13.1	BP1; BE1; BE3; BE4; BN1; BL4	1, 7
	1.2.2 The knowledge base on the impacts of climate change on agrifood systems is constantly updated and potential trade-offs between climate and other sustainable development goals and means for their balancing are identified	13.1	BE1; BE3; BE4; BL4	1, 6
	1.2.3.a Information, science and evidence are available on carbon sequestration in agricultural and forest lands, vegetation, pastures, rangelands, peatlands and wetlands, seascapes, ocean and other aquatic environments	14.3, 15.2; 15.3	BP1; BE1; BE3	1, 2, 7
	1.2.3.b Progress in designing inclusive and accessible carbon market mechanisms for agrifood systems	13.1	BE1;	1, 2, 7
	1.2.4 Consideration of climate risks is mainstreamed into FAO corporate systems and programming through the identification of climate risks as a separate standard in FAO's upgraded environmental and social safeguards system and their integration into FAO's project cycle	13.1	BE1	7
II Pillar Country-level. Developing countries' capacities for climate action				
Outcome 2.1 <i>FAO Members implement, monitor and report their climate commitments as outlined in their agrifood system strategies and/or climate change strategies, link them with the other commitments and tracking for sustainable development, including through their regular reporting to UNFCCC under the enhanced transparency framework and other international reporting frameworks.</i>				
	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Enhance its assistance	2.1.1 Countries have improved capacities in climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC umbrella, including for designing, implementing and updating national commitments related to transforming agrifood systems and reversing biodiversity loss, including in NDCs, NAPs, REDD+ strategies and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies	12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 15.5	BE1; BE2; BP1	2, 3
	2.1.2 Countries' research, extension, training institutions and innovation systems are strengthened to better respond to climate change challenges, including identifying, developing and disseminating country-specific and locally adapted solutions as well as preparedness to handle and recover from climate disasters	12.a, 13.1, 13.3	BP1; BE1; BE2; BE4	4
	2.1.3 Countries have scaled up anticipatory action, early warning systems, analysis and planning that contribute to building resilience	13.1, 13.3	BE1; BE3; BE4	4
	2.1.4 Countries generate, collect, monitor, analyse and utilize data and information and advance digitalization needed for climate action	13.1, 13.3	BE1	1, 4

	2.1.5 Countries can set baselines, monitor and report on progress in their climate commitments, including through monitoring and evaluation and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and CO ₂ and other GHG metrics under the enhanced transparency framework and other international reporting frameworks.	13.1; 13.3	BE1	1, 4
Enhance partnerships and access to climate financing	2.1.6 Countries access financial resources to carry out adaptation and mitigation measures at scale through domestic and international investment and financing from private, public and emerging sources	13.a	BL6	4, 5
	2.1.7 Countries prioritize and allocate domestic finance to climate action	13.a	BL6	4
	2.1.8 Countries identify and establish strategic public and private partnerships with global, regional, national and local organizations, for accelerating climate action	17.17	BE1	5
Promote adoption of good practices and innovative solutions	2.1.9 Countries identify and scale up existing good practices and innovative solutions in support of climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation	2.4, 12.813.1	BP1; BP4; BE1; BN1; BN4	4, 6
	2.1.10 Countries build synergies and address trade-offs between short- and longer-term climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation measures and outcomes, as well as climate action and other SDGs	2.4, 13.1	BP1; BP4; BE1; BE3; BE4; BN4	4, 6
Mainstream equality and inclusiveness for ensuring that no-one is left behind	2.1.11.a Country-level climate decision-making and action integrate livelihood opportunities, inclusiveness, effective integration and participation of women, youth and legitimate tenure rights holders, including Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and marginalized and minority groups	16.7	BL2; BL4	5
	2.1.11.b Countries adopt inclusive and gender-transformative climate policies, legislation and action	5.c	BL1;	5
	2.1.12 SIDS, the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and others particularly at risk develop and adopt specific resilience and adaptation actions.	13.b, 14.7	BP2; BE1	6
Outcome 2.2 <i>FAO Members mainstream climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in their policies and legislation, plans, programmes, practices and domestic and international investments across agrifood systems, including through FAO country programming frameworks and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.</i>				
	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Provide policy and legal support	2.2.1 Countries mainstream climate change considerations into national and subnational policies, legal and institutional frameworks, strategies and development and financing plans and budgeting across agrifood systems, national social protection systems and other key sectors	13.2	BE1	3, 4
	2.2.2 Countries incorporate agrifood systems considerations into their national climate strategies and plans, including NAPs, NDCs, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, disaster risk reduction plans and humanitarian response plans	13.2	BE1; BL4	3, 4

	2.2.3 Countries integrate overlapping climate and biodiversity considerations into relevant national plans, including NDCs, NAPS, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans	15.5	BP1	3,4
	2.2.4 Countries conduct policy and legal reforms that support and enable climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation.	13.2	BE1; BL4	3, 4
	III Pillar Local level. Scaling up climate action on the ground			
	Outcome 3.1 <i>Actors strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity through climate risk management and adaptation, especially in areas most vulnerable to climate change, reducing risks and enhancing sustainability of agrifood systems, ecosystems and related livelihoods.</i>			
	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Support local actors	3.1.1 Local actors, including farmers, fishers and aquaculturists, forest managers, forest-dependent people, land managers, local groups and communities and other local actors have access to knowledge and innovative solutions and take climate actions in their agrifood systems	2.4, 13.3, 14.2, 15.2, 15.3	BP1; BP2;; BE1; BE3	6
	3.1.2 Farmers and local actors identify and engage with relevant partners including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and organize themselves in groups, associations and cooperatives to be better positioned to take climate action	13.1; 17.6	BP1; BE1	5
	3.1.3 Insurance and social protection systems for local actors are promoted to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable smallholders in the face of climate risks	1.3; 13.1	BN1; BN2; BE1	4
Promote good practices and innovations (for climate-resilient development)	3.1.4 Local actors utilize more accurate information on anticipated climate impacts and adopt low-cost, inclusive and easily accessible climate risk management measures	2.4, 13.3	BP1; BP4; BE1	6
	3.1.5 Local actors adopt good adaptation practices, innovation, approaches with related co-benefits tailored to local conditions, landscapes, seascapes and needs of different groups, including women, men and youth	2.4, 13.3	BP1; BP4; BE1 BL4	6
	Outcome 3.2 <i>Actors contribute to low-emission development pathways through more resilient and adapted agrifood systems with mitigation co-benefits</i>			
	Outputs	SDG targets	PPA	CF
Promote good practices and innovations (for low-emission development)	3.2.1 Feasible low-emission solutions for agrifood systems are available and adopted by local actors	2.4	BP1; BP4; BE1	6
	3.2.2 Local actors have access to knowledge on good practices for sustainable and inclusive business models	2.4	BP1; BP4; BE1	6
	3.2.3 Farmers, fishers and aquaculturists, forest managers and forest-dependent people, land managers, local groups and communities including those of Indigenous Peoples benefit from climate financing and other schemes for payment for environmental services.	2.a, 13.a	BE1; BL5; BL6	6

Listing of the SDGs, PPAs and FAO Core Functions included in table 1:

Sustainable Development Goals targets with direct links with proposed outputs

- **2.4** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- **2.a** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- **5.c** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
- **6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
- **6.5** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
- **6.6** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
- **7.3** By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
- **12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- **12.4** By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- **12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- **12.8** By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- **12.a** Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- **13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- **13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- **13.a** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- **13.b** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities
- **14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- **14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

- **14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- **15.1** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
- **15.2** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- **15.3** By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world
- **15.4** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.
- **15.5** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- **16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- **17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.
- **17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resources strategies of partnerships.

FAO Programme Priority Areas with direct links to climate change

- BP1: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production;
- BP2: Blue Transformation;
- BP4: Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources;
- BN1: Healthy diets for all;
- BN2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable;
- BN4: Reducing food loss and waste;
- BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems (linking to all outputs);
- BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture;
- BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture;
- BE4: Achieving sustainable urban food systems;
- BL1: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment;
- BL2: Inclusive rural transformation;
- BL4: Resilient agrifood systems;
- BL5: Hand-in-Hand –initiative;
- BL6: Scaling up investment.

FAO Core Functions

1. *Assemble, analyse, monitor and improve access to data and information*, in areas related to FAO's mandate, working in concert with countries and other development partners to identify consumer drivers, policy and investment gaps, promote common platforms and use emerging technological tools.

2. *Facilitate and support countries and other partners in the development and implementation of normative and standard setting instruments* for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable

agrifood systems, such as international agreements, codes of conduct, technical standards and related technologies, digital tools, good practices and others.

3. *Facilitate, promote and support agrifood systems policy dialogue at global, regional and country levels, including explicit recognition and consideration of trade-offs.*
4. *Support institutions at all levels, including through capacity development, to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based policies and programmes, and leverage investments.*
5. *Facilitate partnerships and coalitions for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that address inequalities and leave no one behind, including with governments, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector.*
6. *Advise and support activities that assemble, disseminate and improve the uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices in the areas of FAO's mandate.*
7. *Advocate and communicate at national, regional and global levels, including to consumers, leveraging the Organization's knowledge, data, position as UN specialized agency, and trusted role as neutral broker.*