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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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**Update on the Action Plan for the
FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031**

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 was endorsed by the Council at its 170th Session (13-17 June 2022). Members furthermore highlighted the importance to mobilize additional resources and requested FAO to develop an action plan for an effective implementation of the Strategy.
- This document presents an update on progress made in the development of the Action Plan, including guidance received from Members at the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG28) on 18-22 July 2022¹, at the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI35) on 5-9 September 2022², and at the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26) on 3-7 October 2022³.
- The Action Plan will be regularly reviewed and monitored through relevant indicators, targets and with clear deliverables and timelines. The Action Plan will be duly aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in order to contribute to FAO's vision. The Action Plan is meant to remain a living document to be regularly updated throughout the implementation of the Strategy.
- To the extent possible, the Action Plan will reflect sectoral as well as regional needs, priorities and initiatives for climate action in agrifood systems. It will be finalized based on the guidance received.
- Reporting on progress in the implementation of the Strategy will take place in line with the established corporate reporting processes, including through the Mid-Term Review and Programme Implementation Report. As stated in the Strategy, the Council will discuss a mid-term review five years after its adoption, and the Strategy may be periodically updated to reflect important developments.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/ni992en/ni992en.pdf>

² <https://www.fao.org/3/nj406en/nj406en.pdf>

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

I. Introduction

1. At its 166th Session (26-30 April 2021), the Council requested the development of a new strategy on climate change, following the recommendation made by the FAO Office of Evaluation in its 2020 Evaluation of FAO's support to climate action (SDG 13) and the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017).
2. FAO developed its Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 (hereafter the Strategy or SCC) through a participatory process including internal and external consultations with FAO experts in headquarters and Decentralized Offices, 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 Session of the Council (13-17 June 2022) endorsed it⁴.
3. The Action Plan intends to guide the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 which is aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. Through the Action Plan targeted actions and interventions under the three pillars of the Strategy will have the potential to induce transformational changes at the international, regional and country levels, more specifically in the national agrifood systems and in the practices and capacities of the farmers and communities as central agents of change. To that end, each activity and/or output of the Action Plan will be associated to required funds, and to this effect, a dedicated Resource Mobilization Plan, will be developed as part of the Action Plan. It will also include a capacity development plan and a communication plan to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategy.
4. The Action Plan will be regularly updated. It will encompass FAO's actions on climate change in a sound, ambitious, realistic and measurable manner. It will reflect, to the extent possible, sectoral as well as regional needs, priorities, initiatives and partnerships for climate action in the agrifood systems.
5. FAO climate action guided by the Strategy and its Action Plan will involve the Organization at all levels (including Decentralized Offices and headquarters) to ensure a shared ownership across One FAO. The Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of FAO's climate work across the organization and for monitoring and reporting on the progress and impact of the SCC implementation at a corporate level.
6. The Action Plan will be finalized based on the guidance received including from the Technical Committees (COAG28, COFI35, COFO26) and will have a four-year time span. Governing Bodies will be informed on progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and the FAO Council will discuss a mid-term review of the Strategy five years after the adoption of the Strategy.

II. Update on the development of the Action Plan

7. The elements of the Action Plan derive from the Theory of Change anchored in the Strategy. The Action Plan also seeks complementarities and interlinkages with the action plans of other FAO corporate strategies, including on science and innovation, nutrition, private sector engagement, gender equality, mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, and corporate environmental responsibility.
8. To enable monitoring and reporting on the progress and impact of the SCC implementation, the Action Plan will comprise elements including activities, deliverables, and timelines. For monitoring and reporting purposes, the proposed indicators and targets for FAO's climate action will be adequately disaggregated to capture the effects and impacts of interventions on different population segments, including on men, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized groups.

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

9. As a first step towards the further development of the Action Plan, the outcomes as described in the Strategy and draft outputs were considered at the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG28) on 18-22 July 2022⁵, at the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI35) on 5-9 September 2022⁶, and at the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26) on 3-7 October 2022⁷.

10. Guidance on the development of the Action Plan was provided at COAG28⁸, COFI35⁹ and COFO26¹⁰. In general, the three Technical Committees commended FAO for the development and endorsement of its new Strategy through an inclusive consultation process. They recommended that the Action Plan clearly sets out FAO's priorities for climate action in the agrifood systems at sectoral level, and at local, national, regional and global levels. They also recognized the importance of mobilizing additional resources to support the implementation of the Action Plan. Further, they requested FAO to provide regular updates to the Governing Bodies on progress made, and to take into account the guidance provided by Members. Such guidance will be taken into account for the finalization of the Action Plan.

11. Under Pillar 1 Global and Regional levels, aiming at strengthening global and regional climate policy and governance, FAO will continue to engage in global and regional climate change and other fora, support Members and partners in the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring of relevant global and regional initiatives, and continue to advocate for a better integration of agrifood systems considerations and the recognition of their contribution in the climate and environment financing agenda. FAO will also promote innovation and collaboration by scaling up and expanding agricultural innovation, and by fostering dialogue among stakeholders. To that end, FAO will enable and enhance the use of data, information, digitalization and science to trigger action through open data, the update of the knowledge base on the impacts of climate change, on carbon sequestration, and on climate risks.

12. Under Pillar 2 Country level, aiming at developing countries' capacities for climate action, FAO will enhance its assistance to countries in developing their capacities for climate change negotiations, research and innovation (in line with the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy), for anticipatory action, and for data collection and reporting on their progress. FAO will also enhance partnerships and access to climate financing, and promote the adoption of good practices and innovative solutions, while ensuring the mainstreaming of equality and inclusiveness of marginalized and minority people, and with a focus on countries particularly at risk and affected by climate change, including Small Island Developing States, Land Locked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries. FAO will also provide policy and legal support for the mainstreaming of climate change considerations into national and subnational policies, national strategies and plans, as well as policy and legal reforms.

13. Under Pillar 3, Local level, aiming at scaling up climate action on the ground, FAO will support the empowerment of local actors with knowledge and innovative solutions related to agrifood systems and climate change, the promotion of peer-to-peer learning, the use of digital technologies, the adoption of good practices, and the access to natural and financial resources. FAO will also enhance partnerships and initiatives to support farmers and other local actors in identifying and engaging with relevant partners and, as appropriate, organizing themselves in groups, associations and cooperatives. FAO will also promote good practices and innovations through a more accurate information on anticipated climate impacts at local level, by knowledge-sharing, exploring and promoting good adaptation practices tailored to local conditions and the needs of different groups, and awareness-raising among local actors, groups and communities.

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/ni992en/ni992en.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/3/nj406en/nj406en.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/nj915en/nj915en.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/nj925en/nj925en.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/3/nk497en/nk497en.pdf>

¹⁰ Official report not published yet

III. Measuring success

14. A section on “Monitoring and reporting” will be developed as an integral part of the Action Plan. It will explain how outputs and indicators have been selected, what they measure and why. It describes how the Action Plan will be regularly monitored, reviewed, and updated, and how reporting on its progress will be done in alignment with the reporting cycle and relevant SDG targets established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, at the end of every biennium.

15. A visual representation will explain how the FAO results on climate change are managed at the organizational level, linking the Agenda 2030, the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its Priority Programme Areas (PPAs) and the FAO SCC Action Plan. This coordinated approach of results management should avoid duplication of efforts and enhance complementarity between the different levels. Finally, this section will provide a mechanism for FAO to hold itself accountable and measure progress and impact achieved towards reaching the vision, impact and expected outcomes of the Strategy. After the first reporting cycle, FAO will evaluate the feasibility of measurement and quality of data for each of the indicators, which may be adjusted if necessary.