

Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems

Discussion paper

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Center for Climate and Energy Solutions¹

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A. Summary

1. The period between from the end of the GST at COP28 (2023) through to COP30 (2025) is critical. During this time period we will learn the collective level of ambition of new climate targets, whether countries have taken into account the outcomes of COP28 in formulating them, and whether countries have put in place the domestic plans, legislation, finance and investment needed to implement those new targets. In the context of the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle, 2024 is a crucial year for preparation, action, and enhanced international cooperation.
2. The global stocktake (GST) decision from COP28 sets out a number of key, transformational global targets and signals to Parties to: (i) inform their next nationally determined contributions (NDCs); and (ii) enhance implementation and international cooperation.¹ The decision also encourages Parties to communicate in 2025 their NDCs with an end date of 2035.² The GST targets and signals form part of guidance and requirements that have been set out from Paris to date, including that:

¹ This paper has benefited tremendously from the feedback, inputs, and insights from a number of experts over the course of 2024, including from Emma Williams, Chatham House.

- Each Party’s successive NDC will represent a “progression” beyond its previous NDC and reflect its “highest possible ambition,” reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in the light of different national circumstances³
 - Parties “shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives” of their NDCs.⁴
 - Parties include, as part of the information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding of NDCs:
 - how the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances⁵
 - how the NDC contributes toward achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2⁶
 - how the NDC is informed by the outcomes of the GST, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement⁷
 - Parties come forward with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all greenhouse gases, sectors and categories and aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 degree C, as informed by the latest science, in the light of different national circumstances⁸
 - Parties commit to accelerate action in this critical decade on the basis of the best available science, reflecting equity and the principle of CBDR-RC in the light of different national circumstances and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty⁹
 - Parties put in place new or intensify existing domestic arrangements for preparing and implementing successive NDCs¹⁰
 - Parties present their next NDCs at a special event to be held under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.¹¹
3. The Presidencies’ Troika letter of 21 March recognizes the need for leadership among an apparent wealth of actors, events, and pathways for Parties to avail themselves of in their efforts to take forward the GST targets and signals.¹² Their second letter of 23 July 2024 further elaborates their Mission 1.5 work plan to engage Parties in a targeted set of activities for the remainder of 2024 to enhance ambition and enable action toward COP29.¹³ While this establishes a welcome platform, Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS) may find a more elaborated vision helpful in guiding them in effectively actioning the GST targets and signals and reflecting them in new NDCs.
4. In order to implement the GST targets and signals through enhanced NDC ambition and implementation, major barriers must be meaningfully addressed, turned into opportunities for enhanced international cooperation, and translated into development priorities and domestic policies. In the context of making the case for clear leadership to enable such action, this paper:
- focuses on the GST decision’s calls to Parties to **achieve by 2030 the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target of attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food and increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all,¹⁴ as well as to implement and integrate multi-sectoral solutions like sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems¹⁵**
 - sets out barriers and solutions, as identified by our work and others, that must be addressed and implemented to enable real action in 2024¹⁶
 - sets out key leadership considerations, how such a leadership role can be effectively utilized, and key priorities for 2024-26.
5. Many of the obstacles to accelerating the achievement of sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems can be largely attributed to: **limited access to finance and resources in developing countries; governance and market constraints; and technical and knowledge gaps.** Additionally, the COVID

pandemic, global energy crisis, and military conflicts have strained global food supplies and intensified the global food crisis.

6. Parties must respond quickly and tangibly to the calls to, by 2030, attain climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food and increase sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all by implementing and integrating multi-sectoral solutions like sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems. While the calls are broad and inclusive, they lack specificity regarding timelines and expected outcomes.
7. At the same time, clear leadership that is inspiring, inclusive, respects the nationally determined nature of NDCs, and meets Parties and NPS where they are in terms of capacity, is essential. Enhanced international cooperation is vital to move from incrementalism to transformative levels of action in 2024 and beyond.

To drive the achievement of **the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target** by 2030, **Parties should develop and include national strategies and plans for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems in their NDCs and/or national adaptation plans (NAPs)**. These plans may also be included in or have synergies with Parties' long term low emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS) and national biodiversity strategy action plans (NBSAPs).

There is currently a gap in effective leadership regarding resilient agriculture and food systems. To address this, the Troika—the collaborative leadership among the Presidents of COP28 (UAE), COP29 (Azerbaijan), and COP30 (Brazil)—could identify champions for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems. This leadership can drive the agenda forward, promote shared indicators, and ensure a cohesive approach across the climate, agriculture, and health sectors.

The COP Presidency Troika's leadership approach, including Mission 1.5 and Brazil's Presidency of the of the G20, provides a unique opportunity to set out a new model for collaborative leadership. Building on the GST targets and signals from the UAE Consensus, COP29 must give Parties assurance that climate finance—drawn from a variety of sources—will be available such that: (i) Parties can come forward with ambitious NDCs and (ii) subsequently implement those NDCs. COP30 in Belém must reflect on the level of ambition presented by the NDCs and set the new direction as we head toward the end of this critical decade.

Questions for Consideration

- How are Parties planning to take forward the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target? How could this be reflected in new NDCs in 2025?
- How can Parties be supported in accelerating the achievement of sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems through their NDCs?
- What is the plan to enhance international cooperation toward the achievement of sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems?
- Which organization(s), countries or regions are best placed to show leadership and build momentum to achieve sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems?

B. Context

8. The GST is a key part of the Paris Agreement’s “ambition cycle.”¹⁷ Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to undertake a GST every five years “to take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals...It shall do so in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, and in light of equity and the best available science.”¹⁸
9. The outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in: (i) updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support (including their NDCs); and (ii) enhancing international cooperation for climate action.¹⁹ The GST outcome also reaffirms sustainable and just solutions founded on meaningful, inclusive participation of all stakeholders and underlines that just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes.²⁰
10. Parties are encouraged to communicate their NDCs by February 10, 2025 with an end date of 2035.²¹ Parties have significant guidance and requirements for their NDCs that have been set out by Parties from Paris through to COP28 (see “Summary” above).
11. The last *NDC Synthesis Report* showed that 61 percent of Parties outlined plans to deploy specific technologies for climate adaptation and mitigation for agriculture in their NDCs. 80 percent of Parties included strategies for reducing emissions within the agriculture sector and 19 percent included gender responsive measures related to agriculture in their NDCs.²² While many NDCs addressed agricultural production measures, only nine countries included provisions on food waste, and even fewer incorporated strategies concerning dietary choices.²³ 48 percent of NAPs submitted mention agriculture and food security.²⁴
12. The year 2024 is therefore a crucial year to take forward the GST targets and signals, translating them into effective domestic policies and measures as well as enhancing international cooperation on climate action. The moment of truth as to whether the GST, in the wider context of the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle, will have succeeded in increasing ambition will be February 10, 2025 when new NDCs must be tabled by all Parties. The collective impact of these will be set out in a synthesis report to be made available ahead of COP30.²⁵ Furthermore, COP30 in Belém should not be seen as a cliff edge; it will need to set out the world’s response to level of ambition that countries have come forward with.

Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems: From Incremental to Transformational Change

13. Transforming agriculture and food systems can help address the climate and biodiversity global crises and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).²⁶ Globally, modern agriculture and food systems are responsible for 80 percent of deforestation, 70 percent of freshwater use, and are the single greatest cause of terrestrial biodiversity loss.²⁷ Nearly a fifth of all food produced each year is squandered or lost before it can be consumed, resulting in a staggering U.S. \$1 trillion in wasted food annually.²⁸
14. Transforming agriculture and food systems increases the resilience of agriculture and food systems and of humans. Halting and reversing the destruction of forests and other ecosystems reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It also reduces nitrous oxides emissions from fertilizer use and methane emissions from ruminant livestock.²⁹

15. The 2021 UN Food Systems Summit aimed to transform global food systems to achieve the SDGs. It sought to address critical challenges such as food security, nutrition, and environmental sustainability by bringing together diverse stakeholders—including governments, businesses, and civil society—to reimagine and reshape how food is produced, distributed, and consumed. The summit focused on reducing hunger and malnutrition, promoting sustainable practices, and enhancing economic opportunities for vulnerable communities, ultimately striving for a more resilient and equitable global food system.³⁰ The summit was pivotal in that countries agreed to develop national pathway plans for sustainable food systems. As of 2024, over 150 countries and the European Union have submitted national pathways.³¹
16. UNFCCC Parties have discussed agriculture and climate change issues since at least 2012. At COP23 in 2017, Parties launched the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture on addressing issues at the intersection of agriculture and climate change.
17. At COP26 in 2021, the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) was established. A collaborative initiative between the US and the UAE, it seeks to boost investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems from 2021-25. With over 600 partners, including 56 countries, AIM for Climate has mobilized U.S. \$17 billion to date and promoted innovative solutions to tackle climate change and global hunger.³²
18. At COP27 in 2022, Parties launched the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security. This four-year initiative established an online portal to facilitate collaboration and information sharing among stakeholders involved in climate action related to agriculture and food security.³³ In 2022, FAO also launched the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership to catalyze and accelerate the FAST Initiative which aims to transform agriculture and food systems for people, climate and nature by 2030.³⁴
19. At the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) in December 2022, governments adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The KMGBF committed to a global agreement to conserve biodiversity, support the achievement of the SDGs and set out an ambitious pathway to reach the vision of global harmony with nature by 2050, with linkages to food security and agriculture.^{35,36}
20. In July 2023, the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub held a UN Food Systems Summit+2 as a stocktaking moment, capitalizing on the momentum generated by the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The summit established a platform for countries to assess progress toward commitments, highlight successes, pinpoint persistent obstacles, and prioritize efforts for means of implementation.³⁷
21. In 2023, the COP28 Presidency announced the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action which was endorsed by 160 countries. The declaration acknowledged the significant impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security. It outlines commitments aimed at achieving specific goals by 2025 and fostering greater collaboration among nations to effectively address these challenges.³⁸ Led by a group of countries that include Brazil, Cambodia, Norway, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, the Alliance of Champions for Food System Transformation was also announced at COP28. Alliance members agreed to update their NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, and NBSAPs to align with the revised National Food System Transformation Pathways and/or Implementation Plans and report on them annually.
22. The 2023 FAO Global Roadmap for Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 set out a comprehensive three-year process. It outlines a global vision, examines regional adaptation, explores diverse financial options, and aims to develop concrete investment and policy packages by COP30.³⁹

23. The COP28 GST outcome notably welcomed the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target.⁴⁰ Parties are expected to adopt indicators that can help track progress against this target at the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA7) in November 2025.
24. In recognition of the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5 degree C pathways and enhanced adaptation, the GST decision calls on Parties to **achieve the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target by 2030,⁴¹ as well as to implement and integrate multi-sectoral solutions like sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems.⁴²**

Barriers and Solutions for Resilient Agriculture

Barriers

25. Parties still face a number of regulatory, economic, social, and technological barriers to implementing a wide-scale shift to climate-smart agriculture and resilient food systems. As identified by C2ES⁴³ as well as the GST’s *Technical Dialogue Synthesis* report,⁴⁴ climate change poses the following challenges:
- some food production areas will become increasingly unsuitable for agriculture, given negative impacts to air, soil, and water quality
 - the number of people at risk of hunger in mid-century will increase, concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Central America
 - the nutrient density of some crops will be reduced, due to increased ground-level carbon dioxide concentration
 - the effectiveness of pollinator agents will be reduced
 - altered occurrence and distribution of pests, weeds, and diseases, including zoonoses, in agricultural, forest, and food systems and their control will become more costly.
26. In addition, 70 percent of the world’s agricultural land is controlled by just one percent of farms, primarily large agribusiness. But agro-ecological and regenerative methods are particularly well suited to small-scale food producers, who typically rely on low-tech and labor-intensive practices.⁴⁵

Solutions

27. A number of high-impact solutions and opportunities to address key challenges have been identified through a wealth of efforts across different fora. The following list draws from C2ES’s work as well as the High Level Climate Champions’ (HLCs) *2030 Climate Solutions*:⁴⁶

Resilient agriculture actions, solutions, and enablers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivizing sustainable, regenerative and agroecological approaches, as well as food production and consumption that is plant-based, resilient, and stable, by reorienting policies and repurposing public subsidies (Source: 2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminating and repurposing harmful subsidies, enforcing existing laws and regulations, and providing incentives to shift from resource-depleting models of production to those that link resource efficiency and productivity gains to healthy and resilient food systems (Source: C2ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing regenerative land use and agricultural practices, agroecology, and agroforestry (Source: C2ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing trade, finance, and regulatory barriers to uplift healthy and sustainable products (Source: :2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in young human capital by providing incentives and training for land restoration (Source: C2ES)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing direct access to finance for small-scale farmers, especially those in developing countries, that is climate risk-informed (Source: 2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing food loss in the global south through improved harvesting techniques, post-harvest storage, and logistics, and reducing food waste in the global north through improved use of treatments, consumer education, labelling, and expanded composting infrastructure (Source: C2ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in innovation that can improve resilient agriculture approaches, including organic fertilizers (Source: 2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing production of healthy plant-based proteins, plant-based meat alternatives, and cultured meat, and increasing production of nutrient dense foods (Source: C2ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include both mitigation and resilience considerations in decision-making of renewables projects (Source: 2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing just transition principles (Source: 2030 Climate Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving consumer education and food marketing to drive consumer demand (Source: C2ES)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving distribution and access to nutritious foods, particularly in the Global South (2030 Climate Solutions)

28. The **High Level Climate Champions (HLCs) and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action** identify impactful climate solutions and opportunities for international cooperation.⁴⁷ At COP28, in the context of the conclusion of the GST and building on prior work, the HLCs presented the 2030 Climate Solutions – an Implementation Roadmap that sets out solutions framed in specific actions, with insights from a wide range of NPS on effective measures being undertaken that need to be scaled up and replicated as well as current gaps that need to be bridged.⁴⁸ The *Climate Solutions* recommend key actions and means of implementation to achieve key targets for sustainable and resilient agriculture.⁴⁹ These recommendations overlap with high-impact opportunities and solutions to address barriers to building resilient agriculture systems, as also identified in work by C2ES.

29. **The 2030 Breakthrough Agenda** identifies agriculture as a key sector and sets out a target whereby “climate resilient, sustainable agriculture is the most attractive and widely adopted option for farmers everywhere by 2030.” Priority international actions for 2024 include:⁵⁰

- delivering greater quantity and quality of climate finance to support the deployment of sustainable agricultural technologies and approaches with proven effectiveness
- testing, developing evidence, and sharing learning on policy and implementation
- advancing discussions with the aim of developing common principles and criteria for metrics and indicators to track the adoption and impact of key sustainable agriculture solutions
- delivering an increase in agriculture research and development to support scaling up and greater accessibility of promising technologies and approaches across the entire food chain to support climate adaptation and improve sustainability
- beginning strategic dialogues on how to ensure international trade facilitates the transition to sustainable and resilient agricultural systems
- enhancing the coordination and transparency of international collaboration on climate-resilient, sustainable agriculture.

30. At COP28, the COP28 Presidency introduced the **COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action**, which outlines the following objectives:⁵¹

- scaling up activities to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, fisherfolk, and other food producers to climate change impacts
- increasing support for vulnerable populations through initiatives such as social protection systems and safety nets
- focusing on safeguarding livelihoods of women and youth affected by climate change
- strengthening sustainable water management in agriculture and food systems to mitigate adverse impacts on communities
- conserving and restoring land and natural ecosystems and enhancing soil health to maximize environmental benefits while minimizing harmful impacts.

31. The Declaration also affirms that by 2025, that Parties should:⁵²

- engage broadly and inclusively within national contexts to integrate agriculture and food systems into key strategies like NAPs, NDCs, NBSAPs, Long-term strategies, and other strategies before COP30
- update policies and public support for agriculture and food systems to boost incomes, cut greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience, productivity, livelihoods, nutrition, water efficiency, and reduce food and ecosystem losses
- scale up finance accessibility from public, philanthropic, and private sectors through blended instruments and partnerships to adapt agriculture and food systems to climate change
- advance science-based innovations, including local knowledge, to boost sustainable productivity, ecosystem resilience, and livelihoods in agriculture
- strengthen the transparent and fair multilateral trading system anchored by the World Trade Organization to support sustainable agriculture and food security.

32. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), behavior change in diets and food waste is not only highly beneficial for ecosystems and ecosystem services, but it can also reduce the exposure or vulnerability for most people in the world (i.e., more than 5 billion people). A transition to plant-based diets, where appropriate, would be a logical first step to transform food systems since nearly 80 percent of total agricultural land is dedicated to feed and livestock production while providing less than 20 percent of the world’s food calories.⁵³

33. Parties could seek to establish clear and measurable goals within specified timelines regarding sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems. By establishing clear timelines and measurable outcomes, and promoting collaboration, Parties can advance the discussions on climate action in agriculture and food security, particularly within the framework of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work or the GGA Framework indicators. Parties would be able to translate their commitment into tangible actions that drive positive impacts on global food security and sustainable agriculture.

C. Leadership for Resilient Agriculture

34. As an outcome of the UAE Consensus, the COP28 Presidency (UAE) will work together with the incoming Presidencies – Azerbaijan (COP29) and Brazil (COP30) – to drive ambitious collective action, including through the “Roadmap to Mission 1.5C,” an initiative to significantly enhance international cooperation and the international enabling environment to stimulate ambition in the next round of NDCs. This configuration has been called “the Troika.” The Troika, together with the G7 and G20 and including through the Roadmap to Mission 1.5C, broadly seek to drive ambition and enhanced international cooperation.

35. In April 2024, the G7 Ministers and partners launched the Adaptation Accelerator Hub, which aims to help bridge the gap between the current implementation of adaptation action and what is necessary to urgently respond to the climate impacts in the most climate vulnerable countries and communities. It builds on the Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator which was proposed by the UN Secretary General.⁵⁴ The G7 proposed to connect and strengthen efforts already in place while catalyzing and enhancing collaboration between a broad range of technological and technical and financial actors including G7 national development or financing institutions. In its April 2024 communique, the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers stated that it will continue its investment in research and increasing sustainable production efficiencies to manage competing land use pressures arising from growing demand of food, raw biological materials, bio-products, biomaterials, and bioenergy.⁵⁵
36. Under the Brazilian Presidency, the G20 Agriculture Working Group was formed in 2024 to strengthen international cooperation on agricultural issues with discussions on the achievement of the SDGs, food security, technological innovation and climate change adaptation.⁵⁶
37. In the expansive landscape of food and agriculture, there are many influential actors and leaders, with the FAO serving as the leading agency within the UN system. The FAO is actively supporting countries in adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects. Through various projects, programs, and a wide range of knowledge products, the FAO aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience in agrifood systems.
38. The FAO's Climate Change Strategy for 2022-2031 enhances support for member countries in adapting to and mitigating climate change by promoting climate-resilient, low-emission agrifood systems aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly eradicating hunger and malnutrition. It emphasizes effective climate action at all levels, tailored to specific national contexts, and highlights inclusiveness, innovation, partnerships, and a science-based approach. Recognizing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution, the strategy places farmers, livestock keepers, fishers, aquaculturists, forest-dependent communities, food value chain workers, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, and vulnerable populations at the center of these efforts.⁵⁷
39. The landscape also relies on individual country leadership, key organizations, as well as initiatives and declarations to drive momentum (see “Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems: From Incremental to Transformational Change” and “Annex”). While the COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action is an important and significant step forward, its voluntary nature means that participation and commitment from Parties can vary, resulting in a reliance on regional collaboration and individual efforts.
40. The international agriculture and food systems sector lacks leadership recognized by Parties as a driver of coherence and ambition across the resilient agriculture and food systems landscape. To address this, the Troika could identify and endorse international leadership for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems that can more effectively drive the agenda, promote shared indicators, and ensure coherent multi-sectoral approaches among climate, agriculture, and health. The FAO, for instance, in closer coordination with the UNFCCC, could enhance its capacity to track progress across climate-related goals, provide common indicators, foster comprehensive monitoring, and ensure coherent multi-sectoral approaches among climate, agriculture, and health. Doing so would ultimately facilitate the implementation of climate-resilient production and distribution systems that guarantee food security.

2024 Resilient Agriculture-related Events

41. Adaptation and resilient agriculture-related organizations, coalitions, and initiatives may meet or engage at a number of events throughout 2024. These events include:

FEBRUARY
19 February, First G20 Agriculture Working Group Meeting (Brasília, Brazil)
MARCH
12-15 March, 25th Meeting of the Adaptation Committee (Bonn, Germany)
18-19 March, Annual Adaptation Forum 2024 by the Adaptation Committee (Bonn, Germany)
21-22 March, Copenhagen Climate Ministerial (Copenhagen, Denmark) <i>Presentation of the Troika vision and approach and official launch of its work for the year</i>
26 March, Forum for the Future on Agriculture (Brussels, Belgium)
APRIL
9-12 April, Fifth Global Food Security Conference (Leuven, Belgium)
22-25 April, NAP ExPo (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
25-26 April, Petersberg Climate Dialogue (Berlin, Germany)
29-30 April, Second G20 Agriculture Working Group Meeting (Brasília, Brazil)
MAY
15-17 May, UAE-Belém work programme on indicators (Paro, Bhutan)
JUNE
3-13 June, SB60 (Bonn, Germany) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP29 Presidency-FAO joint event: Harmonia 4 climate resilience: empowering farmers, villages, and rural communities⁵⁸
17-19 June, G7 Summit (Putignano, Puglia, Italy)
21 June, Third G20 Agriculture Working Group meeting (Brasília, Brazil)
25 June, UNFCCC Webinar: Food Security in the NDCs 3.0 of the MENA region (Virtual)
26 June, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues – Capitalizing on Private Sector Accountability for Food Systems Transformation (virtual) ⁵⁹
JULY
8 July, UNDP and Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Dialogue on “Enhancing International Cooperation on Multi-sectoral coordination on circular economy in agriculture” (Hanoi, Vietnam)
12 July, High Level Political Forum 2024: The catalytic role of policy integration and inclusive governance for food systems transformation and SDG acceleration (New York, NY)
22-23 July, Ministerial on Climate Action (Wuhan, China) <i>Troika’s second majlis with a focus on supporting the conservation, protection and restoration of forests, sinks and reservoirs, including through synergies between biodiversity and climate</i>
24 July, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues - Financing Food Systems Transformation to Achieve the SDGs (virtual) ⁶⁰
26-27 July, Presidency Heads of Delegation retreat (Shamakhi, Azerbaijan)
AUGUST
12-16 August, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for the Pacific (Apia, Samoa)
27-29 August, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean (Bogota, Colombia)
SEPTEMBER
2-6 September, 2024 Africa Food Systems Forum (Kigali, Rwanda)
3-5 September, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul, Türkiye)

5-6 September, Fifth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) <i>Troika's third majlis with a focus on galvanizing political momentum to enhance adaptation action and global resilience by 2030, including by addressing the adaptation finance gap</i>
9-13 September, 26 th meeting of the Adaptation Committee (Bonn, Germany)
10-11 September, Fourth G20 Agriculture Working Group Meeting (Cuiabá, Brazil)
10-24 September, UN General Assembly (New York, NY) <i>A high-level Troika event to showcase the leadership of early movers of 1.5 aligned NDCs</i>
12-13 September, G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting (Cuiabá, Brazil)
18 September, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues- Inclusive Participatory Design to Transform Food Systems (virtual)
19-20 September, 12th International Conference on Sustainable Development (New York, NY)
22-23 September, Summit of the Future (New York, NY)
23-25 September, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for the Middle East and North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia)
26-28 September, G7 Agriculture Ministers Meeting (Syracuse, Sicily)
30 September to 2 October, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
OCTOBER
7-9 October, NDCs 3.0 Regional Forum for Africa (Kigali, Rwanda)
8-9 October, UAE-Belém work program on indicators (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt)
9 October, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues- Catalyzing Climate Action for Transformative Food Systems (virtual)
10-11 October, Pre-COP28 (Baku, Azerbaijan) <i>Troika High-level Dialogue to focus on NDC ambition and implementation to date</i>
16 October, World Food Day (global)
23-25 October, G20 Joint Meeting of Climate Change and Finance Ministers (Washington, DC)
22-27 October, Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (Washington, DC)
NOVEMBER
6 November, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues-Policy Integration to support food systems transformation (virtual)
11-24 November, COP29 (Baku, Azerbaijan) <i>A leaders-level event to focus on taking stock of the Troika's work and opportunities for strengthened ambition in 2025</i>
18-19 November, G20 Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
DECEMBER
2-13 December, 16 th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16), (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
10-11 December, 21st Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA21) Final Pledging and Replenishment Meeting (TBD)
11 December, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Food Systems Solutions Dialogues- Global Touchpoint (virtual)

Capacity Building and Support for the Development of Climate-smart Agriculture and Food Systems in NDCs and NAPs

42. Other initiatives can provide critical capacity-building support for the development of climate policy and NDCs. One key initiative is **UN Development Programme (UNDP)'s Climate Promise**.⁶¹ Climate

Promise leverages Parties' NDCs and brings together UNDP's infrastructure, networks and breadth of substantive offers to provide comprehensive support on NDC implementation. UNDP provides support to help countries take bold action to reduce their emissions, increase their resilience to climate impacts and support sustainable development priorities.

43. In April 2024, UNDP unveiled the next stage of Climate Promise, Climate Promise 2025, which will support countries in developing and delivering their pledges and draws on UNDP's newly established Climate Hub.⁶² Climate Promise 2025 will link climate diplomacy and thought leadership with climate action and sustainable development at national and local levels to align the next generation of NDCs with the Paris Agreement goals.
44. Another key initiative is the **NDC Partnership**.⁶³ Leveraging more than 200 members and more than 80 institutions, the Partnership responds to requests for support needed to translate identified NDC implementation priorities into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.⁶⁴ The NDC Navigator also set out strategies for Parties translating adaptation goals for the agriculture sector from the first GST into national planning efforts.⁶⁵
45. In June 2024, the NDC Partnership and the UNFCCC secretariat launched the NDC 3.0 Navigator. The NDC 3.0 Navigator is an interactive tool designed to support countries in raising NDC ambition and accelerating the implementation of the next round of NDCs. It brings together expert-created strategies, resources, and country insights to support countries in updating their NDCs.⁶⁶
46. In July 2024, UN Environment Programme, the UNDP and the NDC Partnership, in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat announced that they are organizing **NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora**.⁶⁷ The closed-door Fora will use insights from COP28 and the GST to focus on mitigation options, adaptation solutions and inclusion of super pollutants (short-lived non-carbon dioxide pollutants), such as methane and black carbon in the NDCs. Participants, invited from government ministries engaged in NDC development and implementation, will engage in peer-learning, explore innovative financing models and share how to develop policy roadmaps that lead to implementation. The Fora will encourage countries to consider the co-benefits of climate action and share examples on how to align climate targets with other international commitments on nature, pollution and sustainable development in their NDCs.
47. The Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) program, a collaboration between the UNDP and FAO, is currently assisting eleven countries in incorporating climate adaptation strategies within agriculture into their national planning. This initiative aims to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and the objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement.⁶⁸
48. The FAO provides resources to support governments in addressing sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems in their NAPs and NDCs. FAO's Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Environment provides cross-organization coordination on the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation for national policy and planning, global and regional policy.⁶⁹
49. Established at UNFCCC COP20, the **NAP Global Network** connects practitioners and policy makers working on NAPs in 155 countries for the drafting and implementation of NAPs.⁷⁰ Launched in 2021 by the UNFCCC secretariat, **UN4NAPs** is a UN-wide initiative that provides support and technical expertise for NAPs and developing country Parties. It also works with a network of 50 IGOs.⁷¹ In 2022, the UNFCCC Secretariat released a technical brief on increasing the synergies between NBSAPs and NAPs through the Nairobi Work Programme, given that the processes of formulating and

implementing NAPs and NBSAPs present opportunities for alignment of the global agendas of UNCBD and UNFCCC. Aligning synergies ensures that actions under both plans are mutually supportive and not undertaken in isolation from one another.⁷²

Recommendation

50. To drive the achievement of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target by 2030 **Parties should develop and include national strategies and plans for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems in their NDCs and/or NAPs**. These plans may also be included in or have synergies with Parties' LT-LEDS and NBSAPs.
51. There is currently a gap in effective leadership regarding resilient agriculture and food systems. To address this, the Troika—the collaborative leadership among the Presidents of COP28 (UAE), COP29 (Azerbaijan), and COP30 (Brazil)—could identify champions for sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems. This leadership can drive the agenda forward, promote shared indicators, and ensure a cohesive approach across the climate, agriculture, and health sectors.
52. The UN Food Summit National Pathways may provide a useful approach to incorporating sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture and food systems in national strategies and plans that can be included in NDCs and/or NAPs. Parties should assess how their national strategies overlap with the National Pathways to enhance coherence and synergy. The COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action is an important step in driving action on resilient agriculture and food systems among UNFCCC Parties. However, the FAO, which leads international efforts to combat hunger and improve nutrition and food security, could step up and significantly drive coherence and ambition by promoting shared indicators, ensuring complementary multi-sectoral approaches among climate, agriculture, and health, and tracking and monitoring progress across climate-related agriculture and food systems goals.
53. The Troika, as a leader on ambition, can leverage its role to drive momentum and support cooperative leadership on resilient agriculture by:
 - encouraging policies and leadership that reduce the agricultural carbon footprint, enhance soil health, promote biodiversity conservation, ensure food security, improve resilience, increase productivity
 - fostering partnerships across agriculture, conservation, finance, and policymaking sectors
 - highlighting the integration of food security and resilient food systems in NDCs
54. supporting relevant UNFCCC efforts, such as the UAE- Belem work program under the Framework to adopt indicators for climate-resilient food production and supply, and the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on climate action in agriculture and food security
 - encouraging Parties to join the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation.⁷³
55. It is crucial to emphasize regional collaboration and the importance of national sovereignty in agriculture and food. The Troika, G7, and G20 should work to identify a dedicated leader to spearhead efforts to achieve climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, and to increase sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all by 2030.

Ongoing Leadership is Needed

56. The Troika and the Roadmap to Mission 1.5 provide a promising model of collaborative leadership that can provide continuity and a trajectory for enhanced international cooperation across critical years. The near-term goal is action and implementation that inform enhanced NDCs and ambition up



through the deadline for new NDCs in the first quarter of 2025. In the longer-term, such leadership will be critical for informing subsequent implementation.

57. The outcome of the negotiations on the NQCG in 2024 and broader financial developments will impact the environment for international cooperation. Once there has been sufficient time to analyze the NDCs in the annual update of the NDC synthesis report that will be made available ahead of COP30, it will become clearer whether the GST will have succeeded.⁷⁴ But this also means that Belém will not be the “NDC COP.”
58. As such, 2025 will demonstrate how much more Parties are willing to commit to achieving the Paris goals. It is also possible that NDCs will reveal themselves to more usefully be investment plans or tools.⁷⁵
59. 2025 will also mark the year that the Paris Agreement’s enhanced transparency framework will be fully operational. New processes, like the facilitative multilateral consideration of process, provides opportunities for Parties to share best practices and lessons learned in implementing their NDCs.
60. Troika leadership and the incoming Brazilian Presidency must utilize the Roadmap to 1.5C and the outcomes of COP29 to skillfully build on the picture of progress drawn earlier in 2025 to a successful outcome at COP30 that nevertheless remains critical to ambition and enhanced international cooperation in 2026. COP30 in Belém should not be seen as a cliff edge, but a steppingstone to COP31 and beyond. In 2026, the second GST process begins again.

Conclusion

61. There is a strong case for clear leadership to respond to the call for sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems. There is also a need for an inclusive approach. Clearer leadership on implementing and integrating sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems, including how efforts are enacted on the ground, may elicit reactions that Parties are “being told what to do.” As such, the national determinedness of NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, LT-LEDs and their domestic implementation must be clearly reiterated and respected.
62. At the same time, the value of clear leadership on the sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems target will enable far greater and faster implementation than would otherwise be the case. In addition, tracking progress toward the achievement of the target at COP29 and COP30 is crucial to generate further momentum. Early action must be captured in the next round of NDCs due by February 10, 2025, laying a strong foundation for further efforts.

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