I am Zhe Yu from IATP, a member of Climate Justice Now!

When considering the mitigation potential of the land sector in pre-2020 ambition, we believe there are three key principles that are of critical importance. These are:

Ambition: meaning that mitigation in the land sector should not be used to offset mitigation in other sectors;

Food security and equity: food security and sovereignty is a priority, especially for developing countries where up to 80% of women and men rely on smallholder livelihoods. Adaptation and enhanced resilience are key priorities for these countries, while mitigation in the agriculture sector should focus on large scale industrial agriculture – reducing the use of Confined Animal Feeding Operations and synthetic fertiliser abuse.

Finally, tenure, usage and access rights to land must be recognized and legally ensured in any policies targeting mitigation in land use.

This can only be achieved through an integrated and comprehensive approach to land use planning that is coherent with existing legally binding instruments and in line at the minimum with the final report of Olivier de Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food with the recent end of his mandate.

Thank you