

ADP Opening Plenary  
Intervention by the Farmers' Constituency

Thank you, chair

According to the disconcerting conclusions of recently released reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), average global surface temperature is set to increase around 4°C by 2100, if urgent additional climate change mitigation efforts are not initiated. To this day, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have not stopped rising. Parties therefore must make substantial progress this time in developing a draft negotiating text during this year.

Agriculture is at the heart of this convention and must therefore be at the heart of the 2015 agreement. Article 4 of the convention calls for cooperation in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change in agriculture, as well as for promotion and cooperation in the development and transfer of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent, anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases in agriculture.

Our food and farming systems are now facing multiple threats and the ecosystem functions that underpin them are increasingly degraded, unstable and unpredictable. The recently published report from IPCC Working Group II outlines that just 1°C of global warming can be devastating to food production and crop yields and that higher levels of warming will push millions into poverty, reducing any development gains of the recent past. It's not only the food security and livelihoods of 1.5 billion small producers in the developing world that are under threat – it is agriculture and food security worldwide. The climate has changed and agriculture must adapt. Agriculture therefore must be a key part of the 2015 agreement.

We welcome the initiative to organize a Thematic Expert Meeting on Land Use under ADP to share experiences on successful implementation of land use actions with climate benefits, explore opportunities for mobilizing finance, technology and capacity-building in efforts to scale up actions. However, the farmers' constituency remains united in its call for a work program covering food security, agriculture as well as both adaptation and mitigation to be urgently established under SBSTA as a critical input to ensuring that agriculture in the 2015 agreement is on a strong scientific footing and becomes an effective vehicle for mobilizing appropriate and effective international action on agriculture. The work program should focus on options to further increase the efficiency of land cultivation and livestock farming, especially in developing countries. We have been making this call since 2009 and the urgency of this work program should now be evident. We hope that you will spend your time here in Bonn moving towards this goal.

The 2015 agreement must include:

- the necessary means of implementation, including capacity building, appropriate knowledge and technology transfer,

- And the finance required enabling the world's farmers to manage our ecosystems in a way that helps to ensure food security, sustainable development and poverty alleviation including utilizing the huge potential that biodiversity rich forms of agriculture can have in stabilizing our ecosystems – including climate.

Furthermore the 2015 agreement must put us on an efficiency pathway and aim at emissions reductions.

The future challenges of food security and climate change have to be addressed together. This is why the 2015 agreement must respect the rights of farmers and local communities, while enabling them to ensure food security, increased productivity and agricultural production worldwide. It must also ensure they are at the heart of decision-making on issues related to climate change and their livelihoods. The 2015 agreement must be aligned and interface with the work of the Committee on World Food Security including the Committee's role in facilitating country-lead multi-stakeholder assessments on sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. It must also take into account parallel discussions within the UN system on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda as well as the important work of UNCCD in terms of addressing land degradation, desertification and drought.

To this end Farmers call for the urgent establishment of a SBSTA work program on agriculture as a critical step towards embedding effective action on agriculture in the framework of the 2015 agreement.

Thank you