

Submission by URUGUAY

Views on the issues related to Agriculture referred to in paragraph 75 of Decision [-/CP.17] Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. (Dec [-/CP.17] Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, paragraph 76)

Uruguay wishes to express that the COP 17 in Durban decision to de-couple agriculture from sectoral approaches by establishing a Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) agenda item is an important step forward to have a broader discussion than mitigation. The views of Uruguay on agriculture for their consideration at the SBSTA-36 are the following:

General framework: The consideration of agriculture in the SBSTA process should be guided by the mandate to SBSTA contained in Art. 9 of the text of the Convention. This means that the focus of the work of the body should be on providing assessments of the state of scientific knowledge relating to climate change and its effects *on agriculture*; preparing scientific assessments on the effects *on agriculture* of measures taken in the implementation of the Convention; identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies in the *agricultural sector*; providing advice on scientific programmes, international cooperation in research and development related to *agriculture* and climate change, as well as on ways and means of supporting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries at sector level; and respond to scientific, technological and methodological questions relevant to the sector that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body.

Agriculture productivity and food production: Agricultural production is key to ensure food security as climate change particularly affects agricultural productivity. But food security is an issue much broader than climate change. SBSTA should concentrate on scientific and technical aspects addressing climate change while maintaining productivity and food production. This necessitates an approach that includes adaptation activities, as well as recognition that the agricultural sector may not be able to reduce its overall emissions as it works to feed a growing world population.

Given population growth and increasing demand for food, absolute emissions from the sector will almost certainly grow in the future. Given this, an alternative goal might be to ensure food security and adaptation above all, while minimizing the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to national and local circumstances, there are opportunities to introduce good practices at farm level that increase productivity and sustainability and reduce emissions intensity, while taking relevant environmental services into consideration (such as fresh water, soil conservation, preservation of grasslands biodiversity, and lifecycle of agricultural inputs. The multiple dimensions of efficiency have to be considered.

In this context, it is important to note that the increase in emissions from agriculture is more likely to occur in developing countries with agricultural based economies, such as Uruguay. In

spite of this, there are real opportunities for “win-win” strategies that increase food production with less emissions of GHG per unit of output.

Synergies (and tradeoffs) between adaptation and mitigation: In the case of agriculture adaptation has special relevance, and from some points of view for countries as Uruguay is at least as important as mitigation, if not more. As stated above, Uruguayan economy is based on agricultural production and adaptation to climate change represents a key challenge. On this regard we wish to emphasize the importance of actions that can build resilience to climate change and at the same time reduce the emissions intensity of the sector. SBSTA may explore what activities would result in synergies by expanding understanding of agricultural practices that deliver multiple benefits.

Assess the state of knowledge and information: There is a lot of existing high-quality scientific and technical information agriculture in the context of climate change. It would be useful for SBSTA to look at what already exists and provide a scientific and technical platform to accelerate on-the-ground implementation as well as to identify the gaps where additional analysis is required.

Cooperation on research and development: Promoting the cooperation on new research and sharing existing knowledge between countries and region would benefit both adaptation and mitigation activities. This could include: technology development and transfer, identifying and sharing best practices on both adaptation and mitigation, enhancing access to information, and education and training through extension activities. Access to information and training is particularly important for smallholders, which are normally more vulnerable to climate change and face barriers to adopt better practices.

In this context, it is important to mention the existence of initiatives like the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse gases (GRA). This Alliance provides a framework for voluntary action of Countries to increase cooperation and investment in research activities to help reduce the emissions intensity of agricultural production systems and increase their potential for soil carbon sequestration, and improve their efficiency, productivity, resilience and adaptive capacity, thereby contributing in a sustainable way to overall mitigation efforts, while still helping meet food security objectives.

Capacity Building: In light of the above, all the activities that provide avenues for sharing information and knowledge to increase capacities (capacity building) are of very high importance.

Additional information on climate change impacts in relation to different scales: there is a need for more information on the anticipated impacts of climate change at the regional, national and sub-national levels for which it is necessary to develop higher resolution Regional Climate Models (**downscaling**). Global Climate Models (GCM) lack a level of detail necessary to guide adaptation activities locally. Additionally, information is needed to inform adaptation on both short and long term impacts of climate change, such as extreme events and water availability.

Measurement and methodologies: More information could be provided on the current state of scientific knowledge on measurement, methodologies, and the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in the agricultural sector, including methodologies for adaptation.

Integrated approach: When considering climate change issues in the agricultural sector, attention should be paid to livelihoods and cultural components of agriculture. The agricultural sector produces on the basis of Social and Ecological Systems (SES), where Human and Natural Systems are coupled (CHANS). Integrated and interdisciplinary analysis of these complex systems is indispensable to identify at country level successful adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Proposal: work programme on agriculture under SBSTA. On this regard, Uruguay would like to recommend the establishment, at COP 18, of a work programme on agriculture that takes into account all the elements mentioned above in the framework of the mandate of SBSTA contained in Art. 9 of the text of the Convention.