



PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

## **AGRICULTURE AND THE UNFCCC**

### **Submissions by the Plurinational State of Bolivia**

The Durban results from the work of the AWG-LCA (Decision 2/CP.17) requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider issues related to agriculture at its thirty-sixth session. The Plurinational State of Bolivia takes opportunity to contribute our views and we look forward to discussions on agriculture at the upcoming intercessional meeting.

*In doing so, we stress that, as stated by the Group of 77 and China in regards to agriculture on June 6, 2010, "work on any sector requires an agreement on a general framework for sectorial cooperation. The discussion on agriculture should respect the relevant provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of equity, CBDR and the promotion of a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties. Sectoral approaches in the agricultural sector should not lead to new commitments for developing countries, respecting the differentiation between developed and developing countries in accordance with the principle of CBDR.*

*The special economic and social conditions of developing countries and the differences between agricultural systems, the importance of adaptation and of safeguarding food security, the interests of small and marginal farmers, the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge and practices, should be duly taken into account when dealing with agriculture.*

*In a context of a dramatic increase in global food demand by a growing world population, there is a need to recognize the importance of safeguarding food security by ensuring sustainability of agricultural systems. In this sense, it is important to recall the objective of the Convention, by which the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations should be done in such a way to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.*

*Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in the agricultural sector should not create barriers to trade, and constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade."*

Additionally, we believe that the bases for action on agriculture under the Convention include Articles 2, 4.1 (c),(d),(e), 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5.

### **II. The need for a transition to establish climate-resilient agricultural and agroforestry systems**

Sustainable agriculture and agroforestry practices increase the resilience of cropping systems – through building healthier soils, increasing the biological diversity of the system and, particularly in rainfed regions (where most poor farmers farm), incorporating more water harvesting and water management techniques. To adapt to changing climates, farmers will need to adopt such technologies, practices and processes. It is necessary to prioritize the funding of these climate-resilient agriculture practices and promote transitions to climate-resilient agricultural systems. Thus, work on agriculture at the UNFCCC should focus on enabling adaptation through climate-resilient agriculture by mainstreaming the different elements/action discussed below in section III in the work of different bodies of the Convention. Transforming the world's food and fibre production to a system based on sustainable smallholder agriculture is the best way to minimize agriculture's

contribution to the very significant problem of global warming. In short, peasant agriculture cannot only feed the world; it can also cool the planet. Agricultural incentives and subsidies therefore need to be redirected away from climate-destructive monocultures and climate-harmful inputs (e.g., synthetic fertilizers) towards climate-resilient practices of the small-farm sector.

The UNFCCC is one of several international institutions that must be called upon to support and enable the adoption of climate-resilient agriculture. There are other institutions that could work to support developing country priorities on adaptation. **Therefore, a work programme under the UNFCCC might not be appropriate.** A gap analysis should be carried out to understand the scope and content of the work being undertaken by these other institutions so as not to duplicate efforts. In fact, the Durban outcome on cross-sectoral approaches does not ask Parties to decide whether to launch a work programme on agriculture, and given an overloaded negotiating agenda, there seems no clear need to increase this burden with a SBSTA work programme.

Moreover, given the urgent need to address the adaptation challenges faced by the agriculture sector, priority must be given to addressing the issues of agriculture within the adaptation bodies of the Convention. The work programme proposals that have been tabled to date would merge mitigation and adaptation questions, thus diluting consideration of adaptation and threatening trade-offs with the mitigation priorities of developed countries. A new work programme on agriculture that conflates necessary mitigation of industrial agriculture with the adaptation needs of small farmers will not only be unjust and scientifically unsound, but also critically distract from addressing either issue comprehensively.

III. As noted above, work on agriculture at the UNFCCC should focus on enabling adaptation through climate resilient agriculture and agroforestry by mainstreaming the different elements/action discussed below in the work of different bodies of the Convention. The following issues and actions related to climate-resilient agriculture are the most urgent and appropriate for consideration at this time by the various UNFCCC bodies, Parties, and other institutions:

1. **Increasing investment in climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry through UNFCCC and external funding mechanisms prioritizing food security, particularly non-market approaches to support agroforestry and agriculture**
  - *Annex II Parties* to the UNFCCC must ensure sustainable, predictable and significant public funding for the full incremental costs of the transition to climate-resilient agriculture, through support to the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, as well as bilateral and other multilateral climate funding mechanisms.
  - *The GCF* should prioritize funding of agricultural projects that support climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry systems.
  - *The COP* should encourage bilateral and multilateral funding agencies to prioritize climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and agroforestry systems in their agriculture funding portfolios.
  - *Annex II Parties* should provide support to countries in the National Adaptation Plan process to integrate ecological agriculture into national adaptation plans.
  
2. **Prioritizing climate resilience through climate resilient agriculture and agroforestry systems in the work of adaptation bodies**
  - Parties to the UNFCCC must prioritize climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry systems within *the UNFCCC Adaptation Framework*, in *the Nairobi work programme* and within *national adaptation plans*.
  - Parties should decide to develop a workstream on agriculture and agroforestry systems under *the Nairobi work programme*, with an emphasis on agroecological approaches to

- reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity in agricultural and agroforestry systems. One element of the workstream would be a review of agroecological practices and their contribution to climate resilience.
- As they develop their *national adaptation plans*, governments should incorporate actions in the agriculture and agroforestry sector, in particular provision of support to smallholders in the adoption of climate-resilient agroecological practices. Developed countries should provide funding for these actions through bilateral and multilateral climate finance and other mechanisms.
  - Support for activities identified must be made available through the **Adaptation Mechanism** proposed under non-market based approaches, recognizing, valuing and supporting sustainable agriculture, livestock and agroforestry systems.
  - *The Adaptation Committee* should initiate a workstream on agriculture to coordinate work in the sector among the different elements of the Adaptation Framework. Included in this workstream should be a review of agroecological climate-resilient strategies and technologies for adaptation in agricultural systems.
  - *The Adaptation Committee*, in cooperation with the *Technology Executive Committee*, should encourage and facilitate transfer of ecological agriculture and agroforestry technologies relevant to reducing vulnerabilities and building of adaptive capacity and resilience in agricultural and agroforestry systems.

### 3. Enabling a research and knowledge-sharing agenda towards climate resilient agriculture and agroforestry systems

- In the context of implementing Article 4.1(c) under the *AWG-LCA*, Parties to the UNFCCC should initiate a SBSTA review of ecological agriculture and agroforestry approaches that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, such as practices that reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, and animal production models that recycle animal waste as fertility inputs in crop production. Such a review could include details on national policies and international funding for research on and implementation of those ecological agricultural practices that reduce or prevent agricultural GHG emissions.
- *The Technology Executive Committee* should facilitate the review and enable the assessment and transfer of agroecological technologies and techniques that help communities increase the climate resiliency of their agricultural systems.
- The Conference of the Parties should call on other institutions working on agriculture to take guidance and support the adaptation priorities related to agriculture and agroforestry systems in developing countries enhancing the role of local resource use and production systems.