

UNFCCC Farmers Constituency Closing High Level Plenary Statement

Thank you, Chair,

During the past two weeks, farmers, civil society and international organizations have come together in meetings, side events and individually to discuss solutions to the serious issues facing farmers and rural communities across the world.

It is clear that if appropriately assisted, the world's farmers are in a unique position to simultaneously combat global warming and increase food, energy and water security. In doing so, millions will be lifted out of poverty through the growth in rural livelihoods and economies in which farmers are at the centre.

Farmers are ready to tackle these challenges and fulfil the enormous potential of agriculture.

It was believed that this year, the SBSTA would be ready to make a positive decision to help farmers achieve this potential. Disappointingly, this did not happen. We are now counting on you to step up and make this decision.

Agriculture is the only sector that can provide the planet with a range of beneficial services to meet the climate challenge, through adaptation, mitigation and delivery of a safe and secure food supply. A SBSTA work program is an important first step to ensuring such benefits can be achieved. It is essential that you find the political will to initiate this work program.

If you don't make this decision, agriculture could be left behind for many years to come and will be unable to meet the future challenge of feeding a growing global population as the climate changes. We are looking to you for leadership. The time to act is now.

Thank you