



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

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FAO submission on opportunities to enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders

FAO welcomes the opportunity to submit views to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on opportunities to enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders with a view to strengthening the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21, as well as the organization of the workshop on this topic at SBI46.

Effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders will be essential to mobilize the collective action needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Framework Convention. FAO would like to emphasize the importance of engaging all "Major Groups": business and industry non-governmental organizations (NGOs); environmental NGOs; farmer NGOs; indigenous peoples organizations; local government and municipal authorities; research and independent NGOs; trade union NGOs; women and gender NGOs (see also FAO submission on *Possible elements of a Gender Action Plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*¹); and youth NGOs.

In this respect, it is crucial that efforts to engage non-Party stakeholders give due consideration to the agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) to ensure their specificities are appropriately taken into account. The agricultural sectors offer considerable opportunities to deliver adaptation and mitigation benefits simultaneously, while often also delivering economic, social and environmental co-benefits. This is precisely the type of transformational change that will be needed to implement the provisions of decision 1/CP.21 and effectively deliver on the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. This is recognised by Parties, as the agricultural sectors are among the foremost priorities in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) submitted by Parties to date.²

Engagement of non-Party stakeholders is particularly important to catalyze climate action in the agricultural sectors. Private investment in agricultural development is

¹ This submission is available at:

http://unfccc.int/files/parties_observers/submissions_from_observers/application/pdf/769.pdf

² For more information, see 'The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs): Analysis', available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5687e.pdf>

considerably larger than public investment in these sectors.³ Non-Party stakeholders are thus among the most important actors shaping patterns of agricultural development worldwide. Effective engagement of these stakeholders at both national and international levels is essential to driving a transformation toward sustainable and climate-smart patterns of agricultural development.

Enhancing engagement of non-Party stakeholders from the agricultural sectors can prove challenging. Worldwide, over 70 percent of farms are smallholders with plots of 1 hectare or less, while another 12 percent are between 1-2 hectares in size.⁴ Many of these smallholders are found in developing countries. They are often geographically remote and physically dispersed, and possess limited means with which to make their voices and needs heard. Nevertheless, the benefits of effectively engaging these stakeholders far outweigh the challenges. Smallholder farmers are among the principal investors in primary agriculture. With the right support – including enhanced opportunities to engage in climate change processes – they can be a catalyst for the transition to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and food systems.

The workshop at SBI46 will provide opportunities to consider means to further enhance the engagement of non-Party stakeholders at international level. These could include the organization of specific thematic dialogues. There could also be value in facilitating access to observers' submissions by establishing links between webpages devoted to submissions from Parties and those from Observers.

Major international initiatives can also play an important role. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (GCA) aims to enhance the efforts of the international community to scale up climate action among Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and as such can significantly enhance engagement among different stakeholder groups. FAO stands ready to support this endeavour, as evidenced by its involvement in COP22 Action Events on Agriculture & Food Security, Forestry and Oceans. Initiatives such as the NDC Partnership can also play an important role to facilitate and enhance stakeholder engagement.

At national level, inclusive planning processes will be key. The engagement of stakeholders from the agriculture sectors (including smallholders, women and other vulnerable populations) is particularly important, and can only be accomplished with a concerted effort to address the sector-specific challenges mentioned above.

FAO would like to thank UNFCCC for the opportunity to submit its views and looks forward to discussion and collaboration on this topic in the workshop during SBI46.

³ For more information, see 'The State of Food and Agriculture 2016: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security', available at: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofa/2016/en/>

⁴ For more information, see 'The State of Food and Agriculture 2014', available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>