

Opening Plenary Statement to be read on behalf of the Farmers Constituency by Robert Jordan at the 2nd Session of the UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2) in Bonn, Germany.

Thank you Chair

The Durban Platform for Enhanced Action is an important opportunity for engaging the global agriculture community in addressing climate change. The farmers' constituency, which represents millions of farmers from all corners of the world, is highly active in the UNFCCC process as well as the other major agriculture related UN processes including the Committee on World Food Security. The constituency brings a joined-up and multi-disciplinary approach to global agriculture policy processes.

The constituency launched several international science-based collaborative initiatives during CoP15 to facilitate greenhouse gas emission reductions and carbon sequestration in agriculture including the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and the Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change. The constituency is therefore an important resource that the UNFCCC can utilize in realizing its goals.

We urge Parties to engage with the Farmers Constituency to identify ways in which mitigation ambition can be, not only raised, but also realized on the ground in an appropriate and practical manner. The international organic agriculture movement for example, has set out in its submission to the ADP Chairs on Pre 2020 ambition the potential of existing organic practices and technologies to help Parties identify practical and low-cost ways to close the mitigation gap.

Soils are the greatest carbon sink after the oceans but, unlike the oceans, soils desperately need carbon. Soil carbon sequestration is estimated by the IPCC to be 90% of the technical mitigation potential of agriculture. FAO state that some conventional agricultural management practices, as well as those employed in organic and conservation agriculture, capture carbon from the atmosphere and store it in agricultural soils. These practices contribute to increase the organic matter content in soils, of which carbon is the main component. Important for adaptation and food security, these same practices increase soil fertility, water retention and improve the structure of soils, leading to better yields and greater resilience.

FAO Hunger and Carbon-gap Maps show a huge correlation between hunger and degraded soils depleted of organic matter. Given that 74% of the mitigation potential of agriculture lies in developing countries, the UNFCCC could make a huge contribution to food security, adaptation and resilience while helping to close the mitigation gap if soil carbon sequestration practices are supported, alongside on-farm deployment of small and medium-scale low-carbon renewable energy technologies.

Finally, to move from ambition to outcome however will require partnerships with farmer organizations and investment in public extension services at the national level to empower farmers with the knowledge to implement climate smart practices. We therefore urge Parties to engage with the farmers' constituency and support appropriate agriculture practices within the framework of the ADP to help close the mitigation gap.

Thank you Chair