

## Concept Note

### Webinar on Food Security in the NDCs 3.0 of the MENA region

*UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia (RCC MENA and SA) and FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa*

### Webinar for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Date and time: June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (GST)

## Background

### *The Call of the Global Stocktake (GST)*

The Outcome of the First Global Stocktake<sup>1</sup> stipulated that, despite overall progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, Parties are not yet collectively on track towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals. It also recalled the latest IPCC report which stated that most observed adaptation responses are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.

The outcome of the first GST also emphasizes the importance of the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change, and recognized the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger. More specifically, the GST outcome encourages the implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as resilient food systems. The decision also urges Parties and invites non-Party stakeholders to accelerate swift action towards the achievement, by 2030 and beyond, of targets, such as, inter alia, the attainment of **climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all**.

In addition, the Outcome of the first GST recognizes the increasing adaptation planning and implementation efforts being undertaken by Parties towards enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability, as set out in national adaptation plans (NAPs), adaptation communications and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The call to Parties to have in place their NAPs by 2025,<sup>2</sup> and the next round of NDCs, due in early 2025, can be an opportunity to highlight food security prioritization.

### *Climate Change and Food Security*

**Climate change, including increases in frequency and intensity of extremes, has adversely impacted food security and terrestrial ecosystems as well as contributed to desertification and land degradation in many regions** (IPCC, 2019)<sup>3</sup>. Agriculture and food systems remain highly vulnerable to shocks and disruptions arising from conflict, climate variability and extremes, and economic contraction. These factors, combined with growing inequities, keep challenging the capacity of agrifood systems to deliver nutritious, safe and affordable diets for all<sup>4</sup>. The limited resilience of global food systems to the adverse impacts of climate change and the importance of increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security were

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CMA.5

<sup>2</sup> Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 59.

<sup>3</sup> [Summary for Policymakers — Special Report on Climate Change and Land \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/publications-and-reports/summary-for-policymakers-special-report-on-climate-change-and-land/)

<sup>4</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural–urban continuum. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>



recognized at COP27 through the establishment of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.<sup>5</sup>

The number of moderately or severely food-insecure people was 2.4 billion people worldwide, out of which 170.1 million lived in the Arab States in 2022, figures that are set to increase as a consequence of climate change<sup>6</sup>.

### *Food Security in the NDCs and NAPs*

Agriculture and the systems that affect food security provide a domain of adaptation action for governments, communities and stakeholders living with increasing risks in the coming decades. **Many countries have included aspects of adaptation and food security in their NDCs and NAPs (UNFCCC)<sup>7</sup>.** Agriculture and food systems that ensure availability, accessibility, stability and utilization of adequate and nutritious crops and livestock, in a sustainable manner, are central in achieving the SDGs, and also support the ability of countries to collectively achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

**The impacts of climate change on food security in the Arab region are also acknowledged in the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). Countries have identified National Food Systems Pathways that include addressing climate risks across the food system, that have the potential to be aligned with NDCs and NAPs. Climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in the region should combat desertification and land degradation and enhance food security (IPCC, 2019)<sup>3</sup>.**

**The 2023 NDC Synthesis Report<sup>8</sup> highlights that a large number of countries have prioritized food security in their NDCs:**

- On the basis of their national circumstances and development pathways, 58 per cent of Parties highlighted other contextual aspirations and priority areas, such as [...] safeguarding food security
- Most Parties identified agriculture as a high priority for adaptation, either explicitly or as part of cross-sectoral adaptation efforts, and most are aiming to use mitigation opportunities in the sector. Many Parties highlighted the need to focus on activities that have positive effects on mitigation and adaptation while ensuring food security
- Of the adaptation components, 91 per cent described key climatic changes, referring in particular to temperature increase, precipitation changes and sea level rise. Of particular concern are agriculture and other aspects of food security [...].

Given the above momentum, this is a timely opportunity to reflect on ways to better address agriculture and food security priorities through NDCs, as their next round is due in early 2025, providing an opportunity for enhanced ambition from countries.

### **Objectives**

- Renew insights into the status of agriculture and food security in the MENA region;
- Showcase countries' food security policies, related best practices and lessons learned, in the context of NDCs;
- Understand the available support ecosystem for food security, increasing resilience of agriculture and food systems and land degradation for the MENA region, specifically in the context of NDCs 3.0.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 3/CP.27

<sup>6</sup> FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNESCWA. 2023. Near East and North Africa – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition: Statistics and trends. Cairo. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8039en>

<sup>7</sup> [AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int)

<sup>8</sup> [unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023\\_12.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2023_12.pdf)

## **Partners**

UNFCCC RCC MENA and SA in collaboration with FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, and partners.

## **Audience and Format**

The targeted audience are government officials working on NDCs, NAPs, adaptation, agriculture and other relevant themes, as well as the UN Resident Coordinators in MENA.



**RCC MENA and South Asia**  
Collaboration for Climate Action



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

## Draft Agenda (120 minutes)

**Moderator:** Ana Vukoje, Regional Lead, RCC MENA and SA

| Time | Session  | Speaker(s)  |
|------|--|---|
| 5'   | <b>Welcome and Opening</b>   | <b>Youssef Nassef</b> , Director Adaptation division, UN Climate Change secretariat   |
| 5'   | <b>Scene-Setting and Regional Context</b>  | <b>Tarek Sadek</b> , Water Resources and Climate Change Officer, UNESCWA  |
| 5'   | <b>The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, with regional focus on MENA</b>  | <b>Tamas Vattai</b> , Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, FAO   |
| 5'   | <b>Global Food Policy Report 2022: Climate Change and Food Systems</b>   | <b>Sikandra Kurdi</b> , PhD<br>Egypt Country Program Leader, Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)  |
| 5'   | <b>Food Security in NAPs</b>   | <b>Motsomi Maletjane</b> , Team Lead, UN Climate Change secretariat   |
| 5'   | <b>Repository of Resources for Food-Forward NDCs</b><br><br>Showcasing of available resources, tools and knowledge products to support food-forward NDCs   | <b>Martina Fleckenstein</b> , Global Food Policy Lead, WWF  |
| 15'  | <b>Country Experiences: Food Security Policies and Uptake in NDCs</b><br><br>Identified countries share their experiences on best practices and key lessons learned on food security policies and their inclusion in the NDCs, with an outlook to NDCs 3.0.  | <b>Yousif Yousif</b> , Director of Climate Change Directorate, Iraq   |
| 70'  | <b>Food Security in NDCs 3.0</b><br><br>Presentations (5 minutes each) by partners on the support available for food security, including in the context of NDCs 3.0. These presentations will cover:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the support available and on offer on food security, agriculture and food systems and land degradation for MENA?</li> <li>- What role could NDCs 3.0 play in enhancing food security, including in the context of the outcome of the first GST?</li> </ul><br><b>Question and Answer (Q&amp;A) Session</b><br><br>Countries representatives and partners will have the opportunity to engage with each other in a question-and-answer session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tarek Alkhoury</b>, Regional Coordinator, UNEP Regional Office for West Asia</li> <li>• <b>Theresa Wong</b>, Regional Climate Change Officer, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa</li> <li>• <b>Abdullah Ahmad</b>, Regional Climate Change Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States</li> <li>• <b>Kassem Jouni</b>, Livelihood and Resilience Regional Advisor, WFP</li> </ul> |
| 5'   | <b>Closing Remarks</b>   | <b>Barbara Manzi</b> , Regional Director for Arab States, UN Development Coordination Office  |