



**PLANT BASED TREATY**  
**2023 UN Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB58), June 2023**

**PBT STATEMENT AT 1ST GLOBAL STOCKTAKE 3RD  
TECHNICAL DIALOGUE (GST TD1.3) OPENING PLENARY**

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Movement*

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a pleasure to provide this statement to you at the opening plenary of the Global Stocktake technical dialogues. As the transition from the technical to political phase of the stocktake, this session should start formulation of key recommendations for the second phase of the Paris Agreement. As such, we should address one of the critical root causes of climate change, the effects of our food systems, the potential for mitigation and adaptation linked to a much needed comprehensive transformation.

Our dialogues and technical discussions have repeatedly underscored the significance of food systems. This multifaceted challenge demands an all-encompassing approach that combines efforts to reduce food loss and waste, encourage diet shifts, and restructure public food procurement. We must recognize that the solutions lie not only in food production methods but also in consumption patterns. We should promote sustainable, healthy diets aligned with the broader health systems agenda. The co-facilitators reflections in the TD1.2 summary report rightly pointed out the importance of demand-side measures, which can offer key mitigation opportunities while supporting multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate change mitigation requires systemic transformations across all sectors, including food systems, which account for one-third of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. With food system emissions threatening our global climate objectives, animal agriculture must be emphasized. A significant contributor to global emissions, animal agriculture accounts for at least 14.5% of global anthropogenic GHG emissions and 32% of global methane emissions. In response to this challenge, we should prioritize a shift towards more plant-based diets that carry co-benefits across food security, adaptation, health, and biodiversity. Diversifying protein intake and exploring alternative proteins are critical in reducing our dependence on animal-based foods.

Our efforts for climate adaptation must also focus on food consumption. The IPCC asserts that diet changes and addressing food loss and waste are essential for maintaining food security under climate change. We cannot afford to lose nearly a third of human-edible crops for inefficient animal feed, especially under the dual pressure of climate change and a growing population.





The IPCC's assessment that a vegan diet is optimal for reducing food-related emissions is a compelling argument for the Plant Based Treaty. This proposal provides a roadmap for a swift transition to a plant-based food system in response to the climate emergency.

Considering that our food systems alone could push global temperatures beyond the 1.5C threshold, even without fossil fuel emissions, the necessity of a Plant Based Treaty becomes clear. Notable cities such as Edinburgh and Los Angeles have echoed this call, underlining the urgent need for a global response to our food system challenges.

Let us also be mindful of the "methane emergency." To restrict temperature rises within 1.5C, a 45% methane cut by 2030 is crucial. Animal agriculture accounts for 32% of human-caused methane. It's high time we address this significant contributor to global warming.

Moreover, we must consider the potential of reforestation and the restoration of ecosystems as crucial climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The evidence clearly shows that a plant-based food system would improve environmental sustainability and deliver substantial benefits in food security, public health, and economic savings for consumers. By shifting to a plant-based diet, we can also combat multiple public health crises, including diet-related diseases like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer.

Our journey towards a sustainable future requires key steps: First, we must relinquish current trends in agricultural expansion for meat and dairy products. Second, we must redirect current consumption patterns and resources away from animal products towards sustainable, regenerative plant-based food systems. Finally, we must restore and rewild degraded ecosystems, reinstate carbon sinks and allow ecosystems to thrive.

As Dr. Peter Kalmus rightly pointed out, "Rapidly reducing animal agriculture and shifting humanity to a plant-based diet is one of the best, easiest, and fastest things we can do to save the planet." With this guiding principle, let us step forward together in this crucial decade of action.

The Plant Based Treaty aims to halt the widespread degradation of critical ecosystems caused by animal agriculture and to promote a shift to healthier, sustainable plant-based diets. We are urging scientists, individuals, groups, businesses and cities to endorse this call to action and put pressure on national governments to negotiate an international Plant Based Treaty. We are therefore formally demanding that a Plant Based Treaty be enacted, locally and globally to mitigate the climate crisis facing us.

Thank you,

Plant Based Treaty Campaign

