

# Agriculture in the international negotiations on climate change: the launching of a new process



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

**DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Unit H.4 – Bioenergy, Biomass, Forestry  
and Climate Change**

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## Discussions on agriculture since 2009



The question: how to better address adaptation and mitigation needs in the agricultural sector?

- Emphasis on the links between food security, adaptation and mitigation in agriculture: how to feed 9 billion people in 2050?
- Broad willingness to launch a dedicated work on this sector
- Some principles put on the table by some Parties including on « common but differentiated responsibilities », trade, small and marginal farmers, indigenous peoples, safeguarding livelihoods, etc.

# The Durban mandate on agriculture

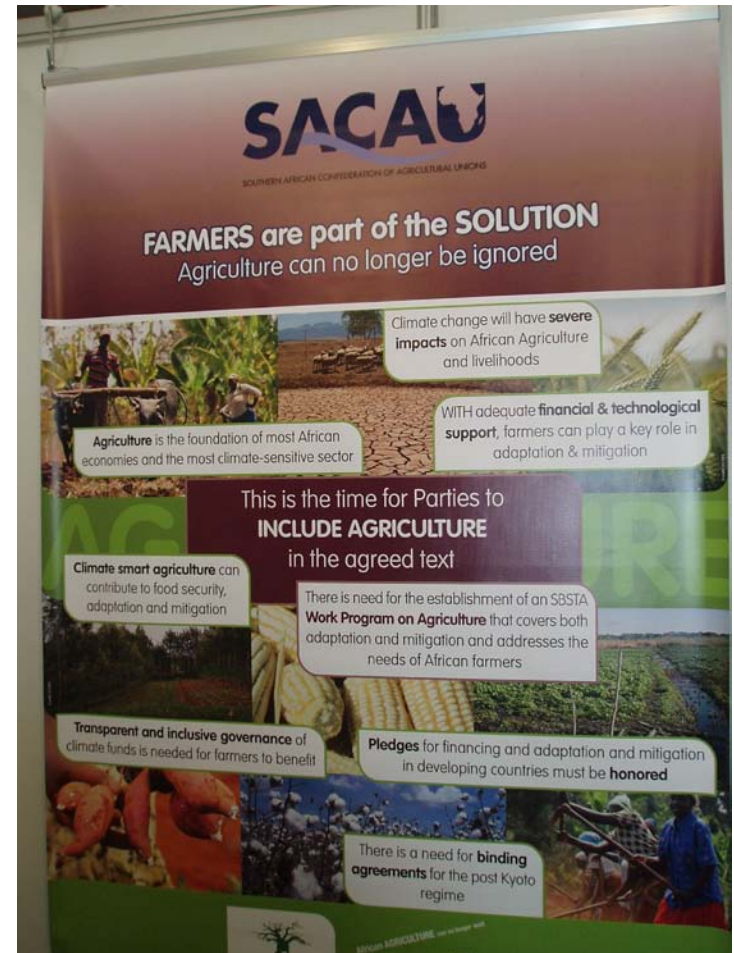
A text was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in December 2011:

- March 2012:

Parties invited to send « submissions »

- May 2012: « Exchange of views » in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

- with the aim of adopting a decision at the next Conference of the Parties in Doha in December 2012



# The EU position (1/2)

## Some principles:

- Need to address adaptation and mitigation, their synergies and trade-offs
- Of interest for both developed and developing countries
- Need to take into account that « one size fits all » doesn't work for agriculture: diverse agricultural systems, specific national and regional development priorities
- Need to take into account all relevant work in related areas (inside and outside UNFCCC)



[http://unfccc.int/files/methods\\_science/redd/submissions/application/pdf/20120305\\_eu\\_agriculture.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/methods_science/redd/submissions/application/pdf/20120305_eu_agriculture.pdf)



# The EU position (2/2)

## Possible further work on agriculture under UNFCCC:

- Need to improve understanding of scientific and technical issues (measurement of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, identification of most relevant adaptation and mitigation actions, etc.)
- Need to better address adaptation needs and to improve resilience building
- Need to use mitigation potentials in the sector, to increase productivity and efficiency of agricultural systems in a sustainable way
- Need to enhance research and development cooperation
- Experiences/success stories are already being implemented on the ground: need to enhance knowledge sharing and capacity building especially towards farmers

## 24 Parties' submissions

- Representing around 110 countries from all continents
- Different views on the balance between adaptation and mitigation
- For many developing countries, adaptation is the priority in relation to food security
- Some raised concerns

+ 5 submissions from intergovernmental organisations (incl. FAO, WB) and 26 from NGOs







# Outcome of the Bonn session and next steps

- Substantive discussions, all Parties involved
- Possible areas for scientific and technical work
- Disagreement on the balance between adaptation and mitigation
  - See how to « depoliticise » the debate
- Consideration of possible concrete next steps
- Discussion will continue in Doha in December.

**DOHA 2012**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP18 | CMP8

## ANNEX:

### United Nations Convention on climate change

