

Statement by Mr Mark Davis, FAO Deputy Director Climate and Environment Division

On behalf of José Graziano da Silva,

FAO Director-General

**Special meeting of the ACP Sub-committee on Sustainable Development on COP22 Outcomes
and Roadmap to COP23**

Brussels, Belgium

14 March 2017

Excellences,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I am very pleased to be with you today at this important event.
2. Our discussion on the follow-up actions to COP22 and preparations for COP23 could not be more timely.
3. Entering the second year after the 2030 Agenda and landmark Paris Agreement were formulated, we find ourselves in a unique environment where all countries are moving towards successful and constructive implementation of these major global commitments.
4. Guided by the same commitments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is responding by supporting Member States to implement, monitor and report on these global commitments.
5. The Paris Agreement on climate change recognizes the “fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.”
6. FAO analysis of countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions shows that the agricultural sectors – by which I mean crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – are among the foremost priorities for national climate action and sustainable development, which must go hand-in-hand.
7. The agriculture sectors are key in addressing climate change both in adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change to ensure food security, viable livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management, and also in realizing the mitigation potential of land use and food production systems.

8. FAO is committed to providing guidance and support to all Member States in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions. This includes policy and regulatory aspects as well as institutional capacity development and technical support.
9. As a member of the inter-agency NDC Partnership, FAO will ensure that the agriculture sectors and stakeholders are adequately supported through the partnership's activities.
10. FAO is committed to act as a voice for agriculture stakeholders to deliver effective support for NDC implementation in the agriculture sectors.
11. FAO is leading the establishment of a Thematic Working Group in issues related to Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use under the NDC Partnership, in order to highlight and strengthen the role of the agriculture sectors in NDCs.
12. FAO will host a kick-off workshop "NDC and the agriculture sectors: International support under the NDC Partnership" in April 2017 where the Thematic Working Group will be formally launched.
13. FAO is supporting Member States to comply with the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement and build their capacities in national greenhouse gas inventories of emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land-use.
14. In this specific context FAO provides country level support and public goods including:
 - a. An E-learning course "The National Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Agriculture" developed jointly by FAO and UNFCCC,
 - b. A manual for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture to address data requirements for developing countries (2015), developed under the Mitigating Climate Change from Agriculture programme;
 - c. GLEAM-I, supporting calculations of livestock emissions using Tier-2 methods;
 - d. FAOSTAT emissions database and the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments;
15. In the realms of climate finance, FAO works with the relevant funding bodies to promote higher profiling of the food and agricultural sectors in financing decisions related to climate change.
16. FAO is an accredited agency of the Green Climate Fund. During COP22 FAO and GCF signed the Readiness Framework Agreement to enable countries to partner with FAO on activities enhancing their access to GCF, preparing national action plans and formulating GCF projects. FAO is also an accredited grant implementing entity for medium-sized projects, between USD 50 and 250 million, and is working closely with the GCF to develop a strategy for the agriculture sectors.

17. In its role as an Implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, FAO has developed a substantial portfolio to support Member States in many technical areas including climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in agriculture. We are working with the GEF and partner Agencies to ensure that the seventh replenishment of the GEF will be an important avenue to support sustainable and climate-smart agricultural development in countries.
18. FAO work on climate change is guided by new cooperate Climate Change Strategy that envisions food and agricultural systems and dependent livelihoods to be resilient to the impacts of climate change through both adaptation measures and the realization of their mitigation potential. FAO support for NDC implementation in countries is a central element of the Strategy.
19. In order to strengthen and better consolidate FAO work on climate change, a new Department of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water was established in December 2016. The department will facilitate the delivery of cross-cutting work across the whole Organization on climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate policy and finance, environment and promoting sustainable bio-economies.
20. FAO is continue its longstanding support to international climate action in parallel to the formal country negotiations at COP23 in Bonn.
21. FAO is working with Fiji as incoming COP23 Presidency, to support the preparation of climate action days and other areas where FAO can use its comparative advantage and available resources to support Fiji in relevant areas.
22. The messages emphasizing the centrality of agriculture in the climate debate, continue to be led by FAO, the other Rome Based Agencies, IFAD and WFP and other key partners. We must continue to emphasize that food security and the sustainability of rural livelihoods in the majority of developing countries are dependent on well adapted and resilient agricultural systems, and that agriculture, particularly the forestry and livestock sectors, can make significant contributions to climate change mitigation.
23. We aim to have a prominent role in assisting with the Global Climate Action Agenda and steer its activities related to the agriculture sectors. This follows from FAO's engagement in facilitating and coordinating several action days during COP 22 in Marrakech, on Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry, Water and Resilience. In the follow up to COP22, FAO is an active partner in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.
24. With the objective of contributing its expertise, FAO is also taking an active role in the Technical Examination Meeting (TEM) on Mitigation and Adaptation of the Joint SBI and SBSTA workshop during its 46th Session.

25. In 2016, FAO ran a negotiator workshop for delegates from the agriculture sectors to strengthen the links between climate change, agriculture, and food security. FAO aims to run a similar workshop in the run up to COP 23.
26. As a compendium to the global INDC Analysis, FAO has conducted in-depth study on the extent to which the agriculture sectors feature in NDCs, with the aim of understanding better developing country support needs, and identifying priority areas for NDC implementation in which the international community and FAO can scale up the availability of support.
27. Five priority areas for international support that have been identified:
 - Compliance with the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement;
 - Coherent policy frameworks for climate action in the agricultural sectors;
 - Research, analysis and tools;
 - Capacity development for implementation and action in the agricultural sectors; and
 - Investment for the development of the agricultural sectors.
28. FAO has been holding consultations on the draft Global Action Programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing Small Island Developing States through various channels, including consultation meetings at the FAO Regional Conferences throughout 2016.
29. The resulting updated version of the Global Action Programme will be presented and endorsed at the Biennial Forum of Small Island Developing States in July 2017, which will likely occur in conjunction with the 2017 FAO Conference.
30. Overall FAO is currently supporting 29 developing countries, of which 9 are LDCs across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, on the design and implementation of processes related to adaptation planning/ National Adaptation Plans and related disaster risk reduction/management planning processes both at the national and sub-national level.
31. The FAO-UNDP programme “Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-AG)” is supporting 11 least developed countries and developing countries to identify and integrate climate adaptation measures in the agriculture sectors into relevant national planning and budgeting through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Four of them belong to the ACP group of countries - Gambia, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.
32. FAO Members have endorsed an overarching theme for the 2018/19 biennium – Climate change and its impacts on the work and activities of FAO. Our engagements in 2017 will already start to lay foundations for success in this important biennium.
33. FAO supports the concept that all Parties must focus on both climate change adaptation and mitigation, in order to go beyond quick win policies that lock in emissions, in favor of

policies with sustainable emission mitigation and adaptation co-benefits in the agriculture sectors

34. We will build political will and support for significantly enhanced ambition in the agriculture sectors in the second cycle of nationally determined contributions (2025-2030), including by soliciting high-level political commitments at the FAO Conference and COP23.

Ladies and gentlemen,

35. FAO is indeed active in the international debate on the impacts of and action required to address climate change. We consider it our role to ensure that food and agriculture remain central to that debate, and we will continue to support our Members and the agriculture sectors to engage effectively in these processes.
36. At the same time, we recognize that real action is needed on the ground to ensure resilient and sustainable livelihoods for farmers and rural communities that depend on crop and livestock production, fisheries and forestry activities. The sustainable management of the natural resources upon which these production systems depend is fundamental to their continuity, and the continuity of these same systems is fundamental to national food security.
37. We have no choice but to succeed in our task, and I want to conclude by assuring you that FAO stands with the ACP countries in the pursuance and ultimate attainment of an end to hunger, an end to poverty and sustainable production systems for food.
38. Thank you