

UNFCCC Farmers Constituency SB60 Opening Plenary statement

The Farmers Constituency¹ speaks on behalf of all farmers facing up to the impact of climate change while striving to produce food, fibre and fuel in a sustainable way.

At COP28, we welcomed the attention of the Presidency to the climate-food systems nexus and the explicit mention of agriculture in the GST outcome.

At the same time, the outcome of the negotiations fell short of recognising the key role of farmers in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and providing clear guidance to Parties on raising credible ambition for our sector.

In other words, all the hype around food systems transformation did not lead to any progress in the negotiations on agriculture and food security nor any improvement in the situation of farmers on the ground.

Too often farmers are left alone to recover and adapt to the impacts of climate change while solving for the emissions challenges of the entire agri-food system. Despite the high expectations, in 2021/2022 the AFOLU sector as a whole receives only around 3% of climate finance²; much less is available to farmers and just 0.3% reaches smallholders.³ This needs to change.

Our Constituency is ready to work with the COP Presidencies, Parties and other stakeholders to unleash the great potential that agriculture and its people have in helping the world mitigate and adapt to climate change.

At SB60 we must:

1. Move on from the current impasse in the negotiations on the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security (SSJW) and make sure the work on implementation is high on the UNFCCC Agenda, with a view to enable the scale-up and uptake of locally appropriate, science-based, and outcomes-focused solutions.
2. Break down the barriers between farmers and finance, increasing the quantity and quality of climate finance and investments to the agricultural sector and ensuring that different sources of finance⁴ are available, accessible, and predictable for *all* farmers with a particular attention to small-scale farmers.
3. Ensure that farmers, through their organisations and cooperatives, are partners and not mere *beneficiaries* of climate strategies and programs and have the opportunity and means to meaningfully and effectively participate in the design and implementation of relevant policy frameworks and finance mechanisms, including Nationally Determined Contributions and the Loss and Damage Fund.

A failure to deliver for farmers is a failure to deliver for 8, soon 10 billion people who depend on the work of farmers for the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the energy that keeps them moving.

¹ The UNFCCC Farmers' constituency represents crop and livestock farmers, horticultural growers, pastoralists, foresters, ranchers, aqua-culturists, farmers organisations and co-operatives, farm workers, family farmers and businesses, women farmers, young farmers, indigenous farmers, landowners, and tenants, in all their diversity producing food, fibre and energy, from smallholder farmers to those managing large areas of land, and including agricultural and other NGOs supporting farmers on the ground.

² According to the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)'s [Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023](#) report, that includes in the AFOLU sector: agriculture, forestry, other land use and also fisheries.

³ According to the Climate Focus's [Untapped Potential](#) (2023) report.

⁴ The term finance is intended to include both funding and financing.