**Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 50/9 on human rights and climate change**

**Submission from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat**

**December 2022**

1. Please describe through concrete examples and stories how climate change is affecting the full realization of the right to adequate food in your country.

N/A

1. Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how climate change adversely affects the full realization of the right to food, taking into account discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

The preamble of the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, highlights the relationship between climate change and human rights, which implicitly encompasses the right to food. It states that “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.” More recently, in 2022, the [Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_2_cover%20decision.pdf) and the [Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma4_auv_2_cover_decision.pdf) recognized “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,” and acknowledged “that the impacts of climate change exacerbate the global energy and food crises, and vice versa, particularly in developing countries.”

The relationship between climate change and food systems is bidirectional. On the one hand, global food systems are a significant source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, which are causing climate change. On the other hand, the impacts of climate change put these same food systems – and therefore the full realization of the right to food – at risk. Climate change has already started to reduce agricultural productivity and disrupt food supply chains, ultimately threatening to increase hunger and malnutrition, thereby also posing a threat to the full realization of the right to food. The increase in average temperature is threatening the abilities of regions, particularly regions that rely on rainfed agriculture, to maintain the levels of agricultural production. Climate change impacts the four dimensions of food security in various ways: availability (e.g. through reduced agricultural production), access to food (e.g. through rising food commodity prices due to climate shocks), utilization (e.g. by impacting the nutrient contents of diets), and stability (e.g. as a result of extreme weather events affecting crop or livestock yields). Climate action is therefore a critical entry point for ensuring the realization of right to food.

Indeed, Parties to the UNFCCC [have highlighted](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Synthesis%20report%20on%20the%20state%20of%20adaptation%20efforts%2C%20experiences%20and%20priorities.pdf) how agriculture and food security are being affected by a wide range of climate change-related hazards. These include temperature extremes, heavy precipitation, changes in cyclone activity, drought, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry, and decreases in sea ice. Specific concerns include decreased yields due to damage to crops, impacts on aquaculture and fishing, displacement of traditional crops, increased food pathogens, poorer quality crops, and fewer catches in the fishery sector. By undermining the full realization of the right to food, climate change impacts will also pose risks to the full realization of other associated rights, such as the right to health as a result of e.g. increasing likelihoods of undernutrition and food-borne disease.

1. Please describe any specific measure, including public policies, legislation, practices or strategies that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage, that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the right to food. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.

N/A

1. Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.

N/A

1. Please identify and share examples of promising practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full realization of the right to food in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.

As documented in their various national plans, reports, and other communications submitted to the UNFCCC, countries are undertaking various measures intended to help safeguard food security in the face of climate change. In their [nationally determined contributions alone](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2022_04.pdf), 86 per cent of countries that included information on adaptation to climate change included measures for adapting food production systems and ensuring that food security is prioritized. These actions, in turn, contribute towards the realization of the right to food. [Examples cited by Parties to the UNFCCC include](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Synthesis%20report%20on%20the%20state%20of%20adaptation%20efforts%2C%20experiences%20and%20priorities.pdf) permanent subregional committees for drought control that invest in achieving food security in the face of drought and desertification; diversifying agricultural, livestock and fish production; improving drought-tolerant seeds; pursuing salt-tolerant food production; enhancing soil management and irrigation infrastructure; adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, improving industrial and artisanal fish landing sites; and making efforts to strengthen sectoral investments and access to technology.

The national adaptation planning process in particular offers countries an opportunity to identify and implement such measures with the support of the international community. [As at 31 October 2022](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2022_19_adv.pdf), 27 of the 39 countries that had developed and submitted a national adaptation plan (NAP) to the UNFCCC had identified agriculture and food security as a priority sector. As part of the process to formulate and implement their NAPs, some countries are taking steps to identify how the impacts of climate change on food security differ by demographic and to monitor the results of adaptation measures within these different demographics. For example, Palestine’s NAP notes that food insecurity among female-headed households is 17 per cent higher as compared with male-headed households. Kiribati’s NAP, meanwhile, lists some key performance indicators for its food security-related adaptation measures that are gender-disaggregated, such as the “number of food-insecure households (in areas/periods at risk of climate change impacts) by male- and female-headed households.” Countries are also taking advantage of the NAP process to establish new and build on existing institutions related to food security and the right to food. For example, Brazil established a Technical Committee for Food and Nutritional Security and Climate Change to inform the preparation of their NAP. This Technical Committee, in turn, built upon the existing National Food and Security System, established by the Organic Law for Food and Nutritional Security that aims to promote and protect the human right to appropriate food in the country.

1. Please include examples and promising practices and challenges that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that promote the full realization of the right to food.

There are a variety of international initiatives relating to food systems – either under the UNFCCC or of which the UNFCCC is an active participant – that would contribute to promoting the realization of the right to food*.*

**Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance:**

By combining efforts of different organizations and mobilizing solutions in climate resilience to promote and scale up the transformation of food systems to be more resilient to climate change and other shocks, the Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance contributes towards ensuring right to food. As the Alliance focuses on key dimensions of the food systems to build resilience, including through water and soil management, local food supply chains, climate risk information and risk management, conflict and peace, regenerative agriculture, strategic investments in disaster risk reduction, etc., it seeks to contribute to the realization of the right to food by reducing the risk and exposure of vulnerable communities to climate shocks and stressors. For example, by influencing different stakeholders, from policymakers to farmers, the Alliance is ensuring that poor and vulnerable people attain and maintain their rights in the aftermath of disasters, or consequent to slow onset events caused by climate change. Hence, food security, is at the core of the Alliance as it is rooted in the principles of food availability, food access and enhancing the functionality and sustainability of food systems, thus helping to build resilience, and ultimately contributing to right to food.

**Resilience Frontiers:**

The [Resilience Frontiers](https://resiliencefrontiers.org/) multiagency initiative coordinated by UNFCCC seeks to identify impactful and innovative actions that sow the seeds of transformative change that is needed to achieve long-term global resilience beyond 2030. It includes eight cross cutting pathways that point people and planet towards resilient and desirable futures for all, including regenerative food production, while inspiring a paradigm shift by showcasing bright light innovations, companies, organizations and projects impacting these pathways.

The regenerative food production pathway is also committed to empowerment and autonomy of farmers, indigenous groups and women, adhering to a rights-based approach. As the pathway promotes the innovation of technologies and institutions, it will contribute to directly addressing the rights of the marginalized groups and their rights to food.

**Nairobi Work Programme:**

The [Nairobi work programme](https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/the-nairobi-work-programme-the-unfccc-knowledge-to-action-hub-for-climate-adaptation-and-resilience) (NWP) of the UNFCCC assists all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries and small island developing States, in (i) improving their understanding and assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; and (ii) informing on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability. By promoting the right information and approaches such as early warning systems and right tools and technologies, the NWP promotes transparency as well as freedom of information access, ultimately supporting the fulfilment of human rights. One of the NWP’s thematic areas of work is agriculture and food security.

**Right to Food in UN Food Systems Summit National Pathways:**

At least 11 countries have expressed right to food as priorities in their UN Food Systems National Pathways. Burkina Faso, for example has highlighted its commitment to integrate the Right to Food in its Constitution. Likewise, the Republic of Korea has outlined the need for universal access to food that is nutritious and healthy.

**Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security**

At COP27, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC requested its subsidiary bodies to establish a four-year [Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_3ab_Koronivia.pdf). Building on and implementing the outcomes of the [Koronivia joint work on agriculture](https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture/KJWA), this new initiative will have a range of objectives:

1. Promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, taking into consideration regional, national and local circumstances, in order to deliver a range of multiple benefits, where applicable, such as adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and mitigation, recognizing that adaptation is a priority for vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers;
2. Enhancing coherence, synergies, coordination, communication and interaction between Parties, constituted bodies and workstreams, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund in order to facilitate the implementation of action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;
3. Promoting synergies and strengthening engagement, collaboration and partnerships among national, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as under relevant processes and initiatives, in order to enhance the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;
4. Providing support and technical advice to Parties, constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in accordance with their respective procedures and mandates;
5. Enhancing research and development on issues related to agriculture and food security and consolidating and sharing related scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experience, innovations and best practices;
6. Evaluating progress in implementing and cooperating on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security;
7. Sharing information and knowledge on developing and implementing national policies, plans and strategies related to climate change, while recognizing country-specific needs and contexts.
8. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full realization of the right to food.

N/A