

Strengthening the environmental dimension of food systems in UNEA-6 resolutions:

Guidance for negotiators

Background

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution has adverse impacts on our agriculture and food systems, affecting global food security and nutrition, and the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of food producers worldwide. With hunger on a 5-year growth trend after decades of decrease while up to 1/3 of food is lost or wasted, **agriculture and food systems have also become the source of around 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions, a main driver of biodiversity loss, and of various forms of pollution.**

The urgency of transforming food systems globally by shifting towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns has been increasingly recognized over recent years, as reflected by a number of international resolutions and decisions, such as the **UNEA-4 Ministerial Declaration** in which Member States agreed to “promote sustainable food systems by encouraging the implementation of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices, improving value generation, and significantly reducing waste and energy use along the food supply chain to help ensure food security and ecosystem functions and services.”

The text recommendations that are herewith provided for four of the UNEA-6 draft resolutions aim to strengthen UNEP’s mandate to actively participate in international processes and initiatives in support sustainable food systems, and to task UNEP to strengthen the scientific evidence on the benefits of integrated approaches to promote joint policy goals in areas related to environmental aspects of food systems.

Furthermore, **the text recommendations aim to strengthen capacities to address the environmental impacts of agriculture and food systems** in alignment with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. To achieve this, the text recommendations call upon **UN Member States to:**

- **Integrate food systems considerations into relevant environmental policies; and**
- **Integrate environmental targets into policies related to food and agriculture both at international and at national level.**

Text recommendations

New text proposed is formatted in **bold and underlined**.

Text that is proposed to be deleted is in ~~strike through~~.

This document was prepared by the Co-Leads of the [One Planet Network’s Sustainable Food Systems Programme](#) and does not necessarily reflect the views of all Programme members.



RESOLUTION: Effective and inclusive solutions to strengthen water policies for sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

- OP1 *Calls upon* all Member States and members of specialized agencies, and invites relevant international organizations and relevant stakeholders, where applicable, to
- g. ~~Promote integrated water resources management in agriculture to reduce water stress risks and pollution, and adapt agricultural systems to improve their overall water efficiency and their resilience to water stresses,~~ **Strengthen the environmental dimension of food systems transformation including through water policies for sustainable development, while fighting hunger and malnutrition with a holistic approach that considers all relevant actors and elements from consumption to production,** inter alia, by:
- **Translating targets of global environmental commitments that relate to the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus including, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as relevant UNEA resolutions, in a coherent way into their food and agriculture related policies and strategies at national level, including to improve their food systems' overall resilience and water efficiency,**
 - developing and implementing adaptive **and coherent** water and agricultural strategies and policies, agricultural and landscape management practices, including **integrated water resources management in agriculture, as well as** agroecological and other innovative practices **approaches** that increase water resilience, and action plans based on a comprehensive approach to the long-term water availability, resilience and reduced pollution, including through the formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
 - [..]
 - [..]
 - **promoting further measures that address the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, including in relation to education, awareness raising, public food procurement, incentives for ecosystems services, the repurposing of agricultural policies and support, and nature-based solutions that can make an important contribution to environmentally friendly consumption and production patterns;**
- OP2 *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, **and in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners,** to
- e. *Consolidate*, taking into account the work in other relevant UN fora and in coordination with relevant UN entities, best practices and case studies of the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus and develop relevant recommendations, **and actively engage in all international processes at the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, including the stocktaking process of the 2021 Food Systems Summit running up to 2030,**
- f. **Develop a report providing evidence on the benefits of integrated approaches at the intersection of water, energy, food systems and ecosystems to promote joint policy goals, including in relation to circularity, diets, soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, land-use planning, water conservation and quality, and One Health,**

RESOLUTION: Strengthening international efforts to halt land degradation, restore degraded lands and increase ecosystem and communities resilience to drought

- OP1 *Urges* Member States to build the capacity and continue or increase investment in sustainable land management and drought programs aiming at achieving land degradation neutrality and building proactive policies that support drought-stricken populations and activities, reduce vulnerability, and strengthen resilience to droughts, **and to do so with a holistic approach that considers all relevant actors and elements in food systems from consumption to**



production, in coherence with related policy areas such as agriculture, nutrition, health and environment;

OP3bis Calls on Member States to translate targets of global environmental commitments that relate to land degradation and desertification including, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well land degradation neutrality targets and relevant UNEA resolutions , into their food and agriculture related policies and strategies at national level, including their national pathways for food systems transformation;

OP3ter Calls on Member States to promote measures at the intersection of land degradation and restoration, food systems and ecosystems, including in relation to education, awareness raising, public food procurement, incentives for ecosystem services, the repurposing of agricultural policies and support, and nature-based, agroecological and other innovative approaches that can make an important contribution to environmentally friendly consumption and production patterns;

OP6 Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners, to:

(a) Work, through its global and regional mechanisms, and in the context of relevant related policy processes such as the stocktaking process of the 2021 Food Systems Summit running up to 2030, on strengthening relevant existing global partnerships and initiatives through networking, collection and share of best practices and success stories as well as promoting nature-based solutions in acting towards reaching land degradation neutrality, ecosystem restoration and building resilience of communities and ecosystems to droughts;

(a) bis Develop a report providing evidence on the benefits of integrated approaches at the intersection of land degradation and restoration, food systems and ecosystems to promote joint policy goals, including in relation to nature-based solutions, circularity, environmental incentives, diets, soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, land-use planning, water conservation and quality, and One Health;

(c) Encourage Member States to develop and enforce, as appropriate, coherent national drought and land degradation strategies as referred to in OP1, and voluntary targets to achieve the SDG 15.3.1 land degradation neutrality, and report back through the UNCCD, and to the United Nations Environment Programme about best practices and lessons learned;

RESOLUTION: Stepping up efforts for accelerating a circular economy transition domestically, regionally and globally

OP6bis Calls upon Member States to strengthen actions focused on the environmental dimension of food systems transformation to address the triple planetary crisis while fighting hunger and malnutrition, with a holistic approach that considers all relevant actors and elements from consumption to production, by:

a) Implementing climate, biodiversity and other environment related policies in coherence with nutrition, agriculture and other food systems related policies, including by integrating food systems considerations in the discussions of relevant international policy processes in the context of UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD, and integrating food systems in their NDCs and NBSAPs;

b) Translating their global environmental commitments including, inter alia, relevant targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well

as their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and the UNEA resolutions that relate to food systems, into their food and agriculture related policies and strategies at national level, including their national pathways for food systems transformation; and

- c) Promoting public food procurement, incentives for ecosystem services, the repurposing of agricultural policies and support, and nature-based, agroecological and other innovative and circular approaches that can make an important contribution to transforming food systems towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly consumption and production patterns;**

RESOLUTION: Promoting synergistic approaches to address the interlinked global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and support sustainable development

OP3 *Calls upon* the Member States to:

- (a) Enhance synergies within their national environment, and climate **and other related** policies and actions, **including in the areas of agriculture, nutrition and food systems**, contributing to the following, inter alia, the 1.5 °C goal, the 2030 Mission and 2050 Vision of the KMGBF, the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, and to end plastic pollution with the ambition to reduce additional plastic pollution to zero by 2040;
- (b) Integrate synergistic approaches into relevant mechanisms such as that related to Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs), Long-Term Low-Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the Paris Agreement, Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) under the 2030 Agenda, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention of Biological Diversity, **and translate global environmental commitments into their food and agriculture related policies and strategies at national level, including their national pathways for food systems transformation;**
- (d) Increase efforts to identify specific policy measures to enhance synergies based on the best available science and taking into account and respecting the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, **including in relation to education, awareness raising, public food procurement, incentives for ecosystem services, the repurposing of agricultural policies and support, and nature-based, agroecological and other innovative approaches that can make an important contribution to transforming food systems towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly consumption and production patterns;**

OP4 *Requests* the Executive Director of UNEP, **in collaboration with relevant partners,** to:

- (c) Evaluate existing tools and guidelines to promote common understanding among member countries on potential ways of streamlining and enhancing synergies among planning, implementation and reporting for climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **as well as food systems transformation** and **other** sustainable development processes, **based on well-established key performance indicators and metrics;**
- (d) Develop a **science-based** guidance in collaboration with multilateral partners for policy makers to support Member States in implementing tangible policies on synergistic approaches **to promote joint policy goals, including in relation to nature-based solutions, circularity, environmental incentives, diets, soil health, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, land-use planning, water conservation and quality, and One Health;**