

Concept Note  
Side event at the 158<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Council  
Monday, 4 December 2017, 12.45 – 14.15  
Sheikh Zayed Centre

## Climate Change – Outcomes of COP23

### Background

The 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Bonn, Germany from 6-17 November 2017. Among other decisions, COP 23 adopted a major one on “Issues Relating to Agriculture”<sup>1</sup>, recognizing the importance of agriculture for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The decision requests that the two subsidiary bodies<sup>2</sup> of UNFCCC work together on addressing issues related to agriculture, taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches towards food security. The items mentioned in the decision cover many of the essential and most promising areas for action in agriculture such as soil, livestock, nutrient and water management, assessment of adaptation, socioeconomic and food security dimensions. The decision adopted in COP 23 will help create an enabling environment for countries and non-state actors to conduct activities in the agricultural sectors that are key to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Alongside the formal negotiations, a series of thematic meetings and side events took place. Launched during COP 22, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action has been coordinating thematic days and high-level engagement on Climate Action. It aims to provide a strong roadmap for the UNFCCC processes to catalyse and support climate action by Parties and non-Party stakeholders during the period from 2017 to 2020. FAO led the coordination of the Agriculture and Oceans Action Days and High Level Roundtables on Climate Action and SDG2, as well as contributing to several others, including Water, Forestry and Resilience.

To keep up the momentum created during COP 23, FAO will continue to support processes in the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention by providing technical input. FAO will also continue to be a committed and active player supporting discussions on food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the international Climate Action Agenda. Concretely, in consultation with its Member States, FAO will offer to facilitate and promote technical discussions prior to 31 March 2018 – the date by which the Parties are invited to submit their views on the agriculture decision adopted at COP 23. Furthermore, FAO will launch the *Knowledge exchange platform for the agriculture and land sector under climate change* (known as the ‘the Land-CC Hub’). The Land-CC Hub intends to respond to countries’ needs by facilitating access to effective tools and to support decision makers and implementers in their practical application.

---

<sup>1</sup> Issues Relating to Agriculture (FCCC/SBSTA/2017L.24/Add.1). Available at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/l24a01.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Scientific Body for Implementation (SBI)

## Objective

The objective of this side event is to engage in a dialogue with Member Countries attending the 158<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Council on the outcomes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNFCCC (COP23) held in Bonn, Germany, from 6-17 November. The side event will highlight in particular:

- The decisions related to agriculture and their implications for food security.
- FAO's plans for further work in support to Member Countries within the global Climate Action Agenda and in the context of negotiations.

The side event is organized in the context of biennial theme on "climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO".

## Format and timing

The format of the event: town hall presenting the outcomes of the COP23 followed by a discussion engaging the audience. Light refreshments will be served prior to the event.

The event will be translated in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

The event will be open to all Council participants, and specific invitations will be sent to all Permanent Representatives to FAO.

| TIME                              | INTERVENTION   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>12.45</b>                      | <i>Welcome and introduction by moderator</i> - Eduardo Mansur, Director of Land and water Division, FAO  |
| <b>12.48</b>                      | <i>Introductory remarks</i> by Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO   |
| <b>12.53</b>                      | <i>Main outcomes of COP23</i> – Deo Saran, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to FAO   |
| <b>12.55'</b>                     | Video: <i>We only have one Earth</i> . Now is the time to take action. (featuring Astronaut Thomas Pesquet), ESA   |
| <b>12.57</b>                      | <i>Food Security, Agriculture and Climate change at COP23</i> by Mr. René Castro Salazar, Assistant Director General of Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO  |
| <b>13.07</b><br>6 min per speaker | <i>Feedback from the Member Countries:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Cabo Verde (<i>tbc</i>);</li> <li>- Mr. Walter Oyhantcabal, Director of the Agriculture and Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Uruguay</li> <li>- Mr. Artur Pollock, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Republic of Poland to FAO (<i>tbc</i>)</li> </ul> |
| <b>13.27</b>                      | <i>Questions and Answers</i>   |
| <b>14.05</b>                      | <i>Closing remarks</i> by Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy director General, FAO  |