

Selected Outcomes of COP28: Agriculture and Food Systems

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The 2023 [Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its subsidiary agreement, [the Paris Agreement](#), took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), in December 2023. Among other outcomes, COP28 concluded with a series of outcomes at the nexus between climate change, food and agricultural production systems, and food and nutrition security. Some have noted the significance of the [outcomes regarding food and food systems](#).

Within the negotiations, Parties to COP28 agreed to several decisions that included language related to food and food systems. Specifically, the adaptation section of the COP28 decision on the [outcome of the first global stocktake](#) states the need for “implementation of integrated, multi-sectoral solutions, such as land use management, sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems,” and “climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all” (paragraphs 43-65). The COP28 decision on the Paris Agreement’s [global goal on adaptation](#) sets a target for “attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food, as well as increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all.”

Outside of the negotiations, the United States was 1 of nearly 160 countries endorsing the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#). Under the declaration, signatory nations explicitly recognized that “unprecedented adverse climate impacts are increasingly threatening the resilience of agriculture and food systems as well as the ability of many, especially the most vulnerable, to produce and access food in the face of mounting hunger, malnutrition, and economic stresses.” They also affirmed that “agriculture and food systems must urgently adapt and transform in order to respond to the imperatives of climate change,” among other acknowledgments. The declaration commits nations as Parties to the Paris Agreement “to integrate agriculture and food systems into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Long-term Strategies, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and other related strategies” under the agreement, before the convening of COP30 in 2025.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched its “[global roadmap](#)” to transform agrifood systems “through accelerated climate actions” to support food security and nutrition

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before COP30 convenes in 2025. Other food system-related outcomes of COP28 included the launch of an [Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation](#) (involving Brazil, Cambodia, Norway, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone) aimed at transforming national food systems “to deliver universal access to affordable, nutritious and sustainable diets, aiming to accelerate major progress this decade.” The United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champions “[Call to Action](#),” signed by over 200 non-state actors, calls for “transformation of food systems for people, nature and climate” and setting “time-bound, aligned, holistic, and global targets by COP29 [in 2024] at the latest, and actionable, evidence-based, locally appropriate food systems transition pathways.” COP28 also included financial commitments and support for sustainable food systems from some governments and private foundations.

Despite these actions, some [stakeholders raised concerns](#) at the conclusion of COP28 that some countries have yet to initiate specific actions in order to realize the above stated commitments as well as [whether there is sufficient financial support](#) to fund such actions, among [other related concerns](#). [Some also expressed concern](#) that the COP28 *first global stocktake* did not include anticipated mitigation measures that were included in earlier draft versions.

Some also note that other food-related action items did not proceed as anticipated—specifically, the [Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation on Agriculture and Food Security \(SSJW\)](#). Adopted at COP27, [SSJW builds on joint work on agriculture](#) from COP23 in 2017 and calls for efforts to support the outcomes and activities related to agriculture as well as efforts to identify future workshop topics organized by UNFCCC. More than 40 [SSJW submissions were sent into the UNFCCC Secretariat](#), including by the [United States](#). However, COP28 concluded with no SSJW decision on how to implement the COP27 commitments. Negotiations are [expected to resume in 2024](#).

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