

UNFCCC Business and Industry NGOs (BINGOs) Statement
Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture SB56 Bonn Climate Change Conference
14 June 2022

Thank you, Co-facilitator.

My name is Sandra Hanni, from the International Chamber of Commerce and it is my honour to address you in my capacity as UNFCCC Focal Point for Business and Industry.

Climate change is no longer a far-off threat but a here-and-now situation that is already endangering lives, livelihoods and natural environments worldwide. Farming systems and farmers all over the world are dealing with the impacts of the changing climate on a daily basis. Some crop and animal production operations are becoming difficult or infeasible in their current location. There is an urgent need to elaborate policies for promoting the adoption and implementation at scale of adaptation and mitigation options to improve the resilience and sustainability of the food systems that the growing world population is dependent on.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) conclusions on the final workshop of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture have confirmed this by recognising the importance of accelerating the implementation of multiple no-regret options with benefits for adaptation, mitigation and food and nutrition security.

In doing so, we must not limit options for farmers and those who are in a position to influence change (i.e., the private sector in their respective value chains), but leave room for innovation to achieve sustainable outcomes at both scale and speed. Limiting the scope of 'actions' to a small number of approaches would inhibit the speed, associated impact and progress we all desire.

The Private Sector would like to remind parties that there is no particular set of farming practices and technologies that fits all of the diverse ecological conditions in which farming systems operate. This is why SDG 2.3 calls for farmers to be trained in both indigenous and modern farming techniques, integrating traditional knowledge and scientific practices to achieve the best outcomes for food security and quality, sustainability and rural livelihoods.

The continued guidance of parties to the UNFCCC is essential to address the impact of climate change on farming systems and, importantly, to allow the development of the enormous potential of sustainable agricultural practices to sequester carbon in soils and above-ground biomass while reducing GHG emissions from all agricultural operations. Business and industry strongly emphasize the need to develop future guidance on agriculture in a coordinated manner that establishes appropriate links between the role of agriculture as both a sector that is impacted by and also contributes to climate change and the broader UNFCCC decision-making process.

There is a need to promote a more horizontal approach to climate change and agriculture by incorporating agricultural discussion into other UNFCCC workstreams, such as further guidance under Article 6 (market and non-market approaches). This will facilitate support and enhance agriculture's potential to contribute to emissions reductions and related biodiversity

and livelihood improvements, thus reducing climate change impacts and providing additional income streams for agricultural businesses that are predominantly cash poor.

The severity of the climate crisis requires an immediate transition for UNFCCC Parties from sharing knowledge to action in a way that considers emissions reductions and respects the essential role of agriculture in food security, livelihoods, and other related co-benefits. An enhanced focus on implementation should be supported by the continuation of initiatives for promoting the sharing of learnings, science and knowledge in support of capacity building.

For the Business community to continue to effectively play its part in delivering value chains with ambitious climate-related outcomes, it needs guidance and a supportive international policy environment that is driven by parties to the UNFCCC. If this is not being generated, the business community will be limited in what it can effectively deliver.

The Business community remains committed to delivering its part in solving the climate crisis and sees the Koronivia process as an integral and vital component of such. This is why we have felt it necessary to make this statement

Thank you, Co-facilitator.