

To Climate, Agriculture and Finance Ministers of OECD countries and China

cc. HE Mukhtar Babayev COP29 President-Designate, Azerbaijan Special Envoy for Climate Change

Excellencies, colleagues,

In your roles as COP29 President-Designate and as Ministers from OECD countries and China you have a strong commitment to climate action and dedication to ensuring that COP29 will be a success. COP29, can be the turning point we need for climate action in this critical decade. As a consortium of environmental ministers and officials from different countries, we propose the following resolution.

Considering that:

1. The food system causes 33% of all global GHG-emissions according to the UN.ⁱ
2. GHG-emissions from livestock contributed to 14,5% of global GHG-emissions in 2013ⁱⁱ (according to FAO data) and 20% of global GHG-emissions in 2020.ⁱⁱⁱ This means global meat and dairy consumption generate the majority of global food related GHG emissions (60%).
3. Meat consumption on average is 26.6 kg per capita/year in developing countries, and 68.6 kg per capita/year in developed countries.^{iv}
4. Meat consumption per capita levels in OECD countries and China are in most cases above limits of global and national dietary, as well as planetary, health guidelines.^v (e.g. EAT).
5. The total global herd size in livestock units is projected to rise by 37 up to 46 percent between 2012 and 2050^{vi}, which does not align with the Paris Climate Agreement goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
6. The climate footprint of beef (70 kg GHG-emission/kg food), pork (12 kg GHG- emission/kg) and chicken (9,9 kg GHG-emission/kg) is relatively high compared to other food proteins like legumes (2 kg/kg), nuts (0,4 kg/kg), among others.^{vii}
7. Meat and dairy cause 80 percent of the climate footprints in EU diets, with similar impacts in other OECD countries like the United States.^{viii}
8. The livestock sector is a key driver of land-use change and biodiversity loss, causing 13 billion hectares of forest area being lost each year due to land conversion for agricultural uses as pastures or cropland, with detrimental effects on water, soil, biodiversity, and climate change.^{ix}

Recognizing that:

1. The last IPCC report recognized these issues and proposed GHG-emission taxes on meat and dairy in high income countries.^x
2. The COP27 Presidency also addressed high meat consumption levels in high income countries and the need to reduce it.^{xi}
3. In [the COP28 UAE Declaration](#) on Food and Climate, 159 countries pledged “shifting from higher greenhouse gas-emitting practices to more sustainable production and consumption approaches” and reviewing “their collective progress next year at COP29 with a view to considering next steps in 2025 and beyond.”

4. The FAO Roadmap '[Global Roadmap for Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 \(SDG2\) without Breaching the 1.5°C Threshold](#)' mentioned a target to reduce emissions from livestock production by 3% annually and CO2 neutral agrifood systems by 2035. The Roadmap wrote: "High consumption of food products with high GHG footprints in some locations contribute unnecessarily to emissions of agrifood systems" and: "*Change food taxes and subsidies for food producers (primary production and processors) to reduce the incentives to produce or utilize products that are over-consumed, and to promote under-consumed products*".
5. The meat consumption is considerably higher in OECD countries (71.4 kg/capita)^{xii} and China (61.89 kg/capita)^{xiii} than the world-wide average (42.26 kg/capita).^{xiv}
6. Small island developing states (SIDS) and G77 low income countries in Africa and Asia suffer most from these effects in the forms of severe climate change, loss of harvests, sea level rise and deforestation.^{xv}
7. That policies to reduce meat consumption are underrepresented in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as reflected on in the first Global Stocktake (GST).^{xvi}
8. Our concern is reflected by the global community, as in 2021, five thousand companies and NGO's from over a hundred countries signed a letter to the presidents of the fifty countries that consume the most meat per capita, asking them to implement policies to reduce the consumption of meat and dairy through carbon pricing systems.^{xvii}

We believe that COP29 and UNFCCC Climate Conferences thereafter can only be successful if:

1. It includes meat consumption reduction policies in emission reduction plans before and after 2030.
2. It includes meat consumption reduction policies in the climate-health ministerial Declarations, since reducing (over)consumption of meat in OECD countries and China has huge public health benefits.
3. It includes national meat consumption reduction commitments for OECD-countries and China, and the need for carbon pricing mechanisms for meat production or food consumption in Head of State and government-level declarations for Food Systems, Agriculture, and Climate Action.
4. It urges the OECD, the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition, G20, G7, China and the EU Commission to lead the way towards harmonized carbon pricing in food-systems, including meat.
5. It uses at least 20% of the revenue of food-system GHG-emissions taxes or Ag-ETS systems in OECD countries and China, to fund climate finance for the Loss and Damage Fund.

As signatories of this letter, we seek to generate a sense of urgency and promote collaborative action among all nations. We hope our concerns are considered so that COP29 and future COPs can become a success. Thank you very much in advance, on behalf of all signatories,

List of signatories (11 December 2023):

1. **ABBAS LAWAL, Balarabe**, Minister of Environment Nigeria
2. **CHEPTORIS, Sam**, Minister of Water and Environment Uganda
3. **TOIRAMBE BAMONINGA, Benjamin**, Secretary General for the Environment and Development République Démocratique du Congo

Non-OECD countries can sign the letter by filling in this [form](#) :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRqhEAsrvvAG7yKJbdkYZASJaRPZUC3a4IcToIKH1N3FqsJg/viewform>

Or by sending an email to info@tappcoalitie.nl with the name and title of the Minister. Updates:

<https://www.tappcoalition.eu/nieuws/21297/african-countries-urge-rich-countries-to-tax-meat-at-cop28>

For collaboration or information:

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Director TAPP Coalition

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ⁱⁱⁱ Oliver Milman, “Meat Accounts for Nearly 60% of All Greenhouse Gases from Food Production, Study Finds,” *The Guardian*, September 14, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/13/meat-greenhouses-gases-food-production-study>.

^{iv} Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Friends of the Earth Europe, and BUND, “Meat Atlas 2021: Facts and Figures about the Animals We Eat”, 2021, <https://eu.boell.org/en/MeatAtlas>, p 13

^v Sheila A. Wiseman et al., “Future Food: Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet,” *International Journal of Nutrology* 12, no. 01 (September 1, 2019): 023–028, <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0039-1695714>.

^{vi} Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, “Food and Agriculture Projections to 2050 | Global Perspectives Studies”, 2018, <https://www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies/food-agriculture-projections-to-2050/en/>.

^{vii} United Nations, “Food and Climate Change: Healthy Diets for a Healthier Planet | United Nations,” 2022, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/food>

^{viii} European Court of Auditors, “Special Report: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Climate,” 2016, <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/cap-and-climate-16-2021/en/>

^{ix} Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, “Livestock and Landscapes,” n.d., <https://www.fao.org/3/ar591e/ar591e.pdf>

^x Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change,” United Nations, 2022, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>, p 153-157.

^{xi} COP27, “Round table on “Food Security””, The Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit, 7 november 2022, <https://cop27.eg/assets/files/days/COP27%20FOOD%20SECURITY-DOC-01-EGY-10-22-EN.pdf>, p 2.

^{xii} The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, “Meat consumption”, OECD Data, 2021, <https://data.oecd.org/agrooutput/meat-consumption.html>.

^{xiii} H Ritchie, “Per Capita Meat Consumption by Type,” Our World in Data, 2020, https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/per-capita-meat-consumption-by-type-kilograms-per-year?facet=entity&country=OWID_WRL~OWID_EU27~OWID_NAM~CHN.

^{xiv} H Ritchie, “Per Capita Meat Consumption by Type,” Our World in Data, 2020.

^{xv} The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, “Poverty and Climate Change”, 2010, <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/2502872.pdf>.

^{xvi} Framework Convention on Climate Change, “Summary report following the third meeting of the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement”, 15 August 2023, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GST_TD1.3%20Summary%20Report_15_August_Final.pdf

^{xvii} “Open Letter - Future Food Price EN,” 2021, <https://futurefoodprice.org/open-letter>.