

NORTH MACEDONIA - STATEMENT HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT (ITEM 10)

Respected,

Let me first congratulate the acceptance of the decision Decision -/CP.27 on Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

The impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and other global challenges has exposed the limited resilience of global food systems to the adverse impacts of climate change and the limited progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring food security.

Increasing frequency of extreme weather events has exposed millions of people, especially small-scale farmers, those from low-income households, indigenous peoples, women and youth in developing countries, to acute food and water insecurity and that, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, more than 800 million people face hunger every year a figure set to increase as a consequence of climate change.

Observations of climate change in North Macedonia recorded since the middle of the 20th century include: • Increases in the average mean annual temperature in comparison with the period from 1961 to 1990 range from 0.2°C to 0.5°C. • Among the ten warmest years for the period 1951-2012, five of the last six most recent years are included (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2012). • Precipitation observations have indicated a general trend of decreasing rainfall. • The greatest frequency of heat waves has occurred in the last ten years, with maximum occurrences at the greatest number of stations in 2012 and 2007. North Macedonia is particularly vulnerable to climate change and variability as well extreme climate events. The sectors most at risk are the water sector, agriculture (crop production, soil and livestock), forestry and biodiversity. North Macedonia recognizes the need to address the effects of climate change by promoting effective adaptation measures for the key vulnerable sectors. Summary of the vulnerability analysis and proposed adaptation measures by sector includes:

Drought is occurring almost every season in most of the agricultural areas in North Macedonia and is projected to be more severe with climate change, further reducing crop yield. Extreme precipitation events are causing low permeable soils to become waterlogged, destroying sensitive crops. Irrigation is prioritised as one of the best adaptation options for crop production in North Macedonia. Climate change has a severe negative effect on livestock's productivity and welfare, resulting in frequent and prolonged heat stress. Adaptation includes technical solutions to ventilation, air circulation and ventilation.

A livelihood vulnerability approach was used to measure the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of different regions and municipalities in North Macedonia. The findings confirm that the human capacity to cope with the effects of climate change is not equally dispersed and varies greatly across the municipalities, especially in line with indicators on primary education (almost 40% variation) and people engaged in agriculture (50% variation). Policy response options should account for the uneven distribution of impacts across different territorial units and ultimately the affected population in different regions and municipalities.

We are staying committed towards appropriate addressing on this issue into our policy documents, especially in the field of adaptation of agriculture sector to climate change.

Thank you