



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan



**COP28UAE**

## **Cutting Carbon, Adapting Food Systems and Restoring Nature on the Path to 1.5°C**

**Accelerating the transformation of agriculture and food systems to build resilient and sustainable production of more with less.**

*Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 2:30-3:30pm*

*COP29, Zone D, meeting room MR23, Baku, Azerbaijan*

Climate action through agriculture and food systems presents a unique opportunity to simultaneously address multiple global and local challenges: climate adaptation and mitigation, resilience, food security, water scarcity, nature restoration, and land degradation, among others. There is increasing recognition that measures to support more sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems are necessities to accelerate transformative climate action, including through the Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers which will be launched at COP29. To feed a growing world population while staying on the path to 1.5°C and delivering on the promises of the Pact for the Future, there is an urgent need to **cut carbon and restore nature** through the accelerated transformation of food systems to **support sustainable land use**.

### **OBJECTIVE**

This event will convene world leaders to **discuss** the integration of agriculture, food systems and sustainable land use in economy-wide **Nationally Determined Contributions** and whole-of-society **National Adaptation Plans** to enhance ambition and enable action to stay on the path to 1.5°C, while achieving food security and building resilience towards climate change. The event will serve as an opportunity for Leaders to share their progress and identify areas where further collaboration can drive accelerated action at scale.

### **Key objectives**

The main objectives and proposed themes for discussion are:

- **Food system transformation:** Explore innovative models, incentives and policies for agriculture and food system transformation and insights into models that increase incomes, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and bolster resilience, productivity, and livelihoods – all while containing and reducing the harmful impacts associated with agriculture and food systems;
- **Cutting carbon and restoring nature on the path to 1.5°C:** Discuss pathways to ambitious climate action through sustainable land use transition

and restoration. Pathways to consider, which offer climate and environmental benefits, include: shifting from higher greenhouse gas-emitting practices to more sustainable production; conserving, protecting and restoring land and natural ecosystems, including forests and nature-based solutions;

- **Financing sustainable land use transition:** Discuss models for creating fiscal space for agriculture and food systems transformation and mobilization of public as well as innovative finance to accelerate sustainable land use transition – including blended instruments, public-private partnerships and other aligned efforts.

## **OUTCOME**

The World Resources Institute will issue a **Chair's summary** highlighting key points from leaders' statements in summarized format to be shared with participants, to be published on the Government of Denmark's website in the weeks following the event.

## **EVENT FORMAT**

**Venue:** COP29, Zone D, meeting room MR23, Baku, Azerbaijan

**Duration:** 60 minutes from 2:30-3:30pm

**Format:** High-level, in-person and on-the-record moderated panel event. Interventions by invitation only; live broadcast to be pursued subject to logistical constraints on the ground.

**Participation:** Heads of State and Government and Ministerial representatives together with Heads of international organizations. Other experts welcome by invitation; and potentially online.

**Interventions:** Leaders are invited to address one or more of the proposed themes.

**Speaking order:** Interventions will be accommodated according to time and availability, with each intervention to be 3-4 minutes. Floor priority will be given to Heads of State and Government.

## **PROGRAM**

H.E. Dr Amna Al Dahak, Minister, Climate Change and Environment, UAE and Ani Dasgupta, CEO of WRI, will Co-Moderate the event. Participants will include the following:

### **Introductory Remarks**

- **H.E. Mette Frederiksen**, Prime Minister of Denmark
- **H.E. Mr. Taye Atske Selassie**, President of Ethiopia
- **[Other Heads-of-State and Government]**

### **Keynote remarks\***

- **Heads of State and Government**
- **Ministers**
- **Leaders of international organisations**

## **BACKGROUND**

Land use – including forestry, agriculture, and food systems – are central to the livelihoods of at least 2 billion people in the world and foundational to the lives of people everywhere through the food we eat and water we drink. However, current land use patterns exceed safe limits in six of nine planetary boundaries and contribute to one third of anthropogenic GHG emissions. Agriculture is also very vulnerable to climate change and both productivity and access are already being impacted. In 2023 over 733 million people faced hunger and 2.33 billion people were moderately to severely food insecure, in part due to the impacts of climate change.

The **UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action** was a historic achievement in which 160 Heads of State and Government stressed that any path to fully achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement must include agriculture and food systems. Through the Declaration, Leaders affirmed that agriculture and food systems must urgently adapt and transform in order to respond to the imperatives of climate change..

The Baku Harmoniya Initiative for Farmers, to be launched and further elaborated at COP29, will serve as an aggregator bringing together initiatives, coalitions and networks to share experiences, identify synergies and gaps, facilitate finance, and foster collaboration on agriculture, including by empowering communities and women in rural areas.

Ensuring sustainable land use is complex and entails intertwined challenges as well as a number of potential trade-offs. The challenge calls for a holistic, systematic and diversified approach based on evidence-based actions which maximizes the benefits of action and reduces the impact of the unresolved trade-offs.

Ambitious NDCs and NAPs that include action on land use transformation, agriculture and food systems and are based on long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and economy-wide plans for adaptation will be instrumental to achieving the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This meeting will highlight examples of best practice at the intersection of food systems, climate, and nature, and stimulate countries to enhance their ambition and delivery as the world approaches the critical milestone of COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in November 2025.

## **CONTACT**

To confirm participation at the event, or to request for/to arrange interventions, please contact:

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