



THE CALL TO ACTION

ABOUT THE STATEMENT

The **Eastern Africa Farmer's Federation (EAFF)**, comprised of 20 farmer organisations from 10 countries, has signed a shared call-to-action to enhance the role of farmers in climate policy and within the international climate negotiations. The EAFF's members represent 24 apex farmer associations, co-operatives and commodity associations, representing over 25 million farmers across East Africa. Despite the unique national priorities and processes within each member country, this statement serves as a common request for support to enhance farmer-led climate change adaptation and intervention processes at the national and regional level. **This collective statement includes key messages from farmer organisations, as well as contributions from the EAFF Secretariat in support of their members.**

It is important to note, from the outset, that the EAFF acknowledges the vital role that agriculture and food systems play in adapting to and mitigating climate change. Agriculture is truly a global climate solution. In addition, it highlights the enormous threat that climate change poses to farmers across the East Africa region and the requisite support needed to adapt to its impacts. This statement calls for a fair and socially just outcome for African farmers at the upcoming COP28 negotiations, wherein farmers are recognised for their strategic importance as partners that represent vital climate constituencies.

This call requests policy makers in the region, and globally, to acknowledge the key messages of this call-to-action and to use their positions of influence to amplify the voices of farmers at COP28, and in other relevant policy processes, as well as to push for resolution and progress on these negotiating items. The **priority areas** of this joint statement highlight where governments should strengthen their support for farmer organisations. This includes areas to enhance farmer transitions towards climate-resilient, low-carbon pathways; to substantially increase the financial and technical resources that farmer organisations need to adapt effectively to climate impacts; and means to support farmer engagement in climate policy processes, at COP28 and beyond.

This call-for-action includes six key messages:

- 1 Push for significant progress in the agricultural negotiating track of the climate negotiations;
- 2 Ensure that adaptation remains prominent in all COP28 decisions and initiatives;
- 3 Promote the inclusion of agricultural targets in the Global Goal on Adaptation;
- 4 Substantially increase financing to support the climate actions of smallholder farmers;
- 5 Guarantee the Loss and Damage Fund will provide adequate support to small-scale farmers and pastoralists and ensure financial pledges are forthcoming;
- 6 Urgently enhance ambition and increase the overall global collective effort to climate change.

Key farmer messages:



Push for significant progress in the agricultural negotiating track of the UNFCCC climate negotiations

The EAFF hopes that COP28 brings further clarity and agreement on the implementation of the Sharm el-Sheikh [joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security](#)¹, including the provision of capacity building support, finance and technology transfer to farmers. In addition, the EAFF hopes for agreement on workshop topics that are relevant to the adaptation of Africa's

1. The Sharm el-Sheikh joint work is a four-year work programme under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at COP27, to address food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to climate change. The Sharm el-Sheikh joint work builds on outcomes of the [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture \(KJWA\)](#), established at COP23 in 2017, as a landmark process to advance discussions on agriculture in the UNFCCC.

small-scale farmers and livestock keepers, as well as the establishment of an online portal that is user friendly and accessible to farmers.

EAFF also supports further discussions on key issues related to farmers resilience and livelihoods. This includes the promotion of the soil health agenda and opportunities related to soil carbon. In this regard, the EAFF calls for additional technical and financial support to build further capacity to include soil health and soil carbon in the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans of their Member Countries. This also includes sufficient support to governments for the monitoring, reporting and verification of existing initiatives to avoid the underreporting of soil carbon activities.

In addition, the EAFF wants to see the promotion of a farmer-centric, Africa-specific, dialogue on livestock production systems. Currently the global narrative focuses on livestock as a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and the discussions are largely on reducing livestock numbers as a climate mitigation strategy. This is contrary to the African narrative which perceives livestock as a contributor towards food and nutritional security and a means of ensuring nutrient cycling within farms. Additionally, the maintenance of stock numbers is closely associated with important cultural benefits. It must also be noted that African livestock systems are exceptionally diverse, and the sector should not be dealt with as a monolith. There is a need to focus on livestock sustainability and a climate-smart transition to ensure productivity.



Ensure that adaptation remains prominent in COP28 outcomes and beyond

The climate negotiations are dominated by mitigation-centric discussions and financing is still flowing largely to mitigation-related projects. EAFF calls for the inclusion, prominence and balance of adaptation priorities and support mechanisms at COP28 and beyond. In particular, the EAFF calls for gender-sensitive and equity-based adaptation approaches that reduce the vulnerability of farmers. This includes means of resilience building support to implement and scale social safety nets; crop and livestock insurance; early warning systems; basic infrastructure and health services; water access and supply management; and climate-smart technologies. In particular, EAFF calls for the scaling of agro-ecological practices and technology transfer to support local initiatives, co-created with farmers, that are practical, applicable and of benefit to grassroots-level communities.



The EAFF also calls for policy makers to address the barriers to effective adaptation for farmers, including insufficient finance; governance challenges and slow policy reform; a lack of adaptive capacity; insufficient climate information and early warning systems; and difficulties in scaling climate-smart technologies. In this regard, there is a need to prioritise investment in Africa-led, farmer-centred innovation, research and development to assist local and indigenous communities and vulnerable populations build appropriate resilience planning tools and actions. Central to these solutions is traditional and local knowledge from farmers, ranchers, and pastoralists.



Promote the inclusion of agricultural targets in the Global Goal on Adaptation:

EAFF requests the inclusion of agriculture-specific targets, indicators and metrics in the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) framework. This will substantially enhance quantifiable and reportable actions related to adaptation activities. The EAFF supports the Africa Group of Negotiators' [proposed target on GGA](#), which aims to “achieve 100% coverage of multi-hazard early warning system and climate information services and response systems by 2027”; to “enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the global population to the adverse impacts of climate change by at least 50% by 2030, and by at least 90% by 2050”, as well as to “enhance resilience and reduce the impacts of climate change by increasing adaptation action and support, by at least 30% by 2030”.



Substantially increase financing to support the climate actions of smallholder farmers

The EAFF calls for the doubling of adaptation finance to Africa to catalyse a shift from on-going, incremental house-hold level adaptation towards transformation at scale. This requires adequate support to farmers in their transition towards low carbon, climate-efficient and climate-resilient food systems. It also requires policy reform to repurpose public support for agriculture to address local farmer needs in a climate-smart and sustainable manner. Besides a substantial increase in funding support, the EAFF also calls for an increase in the mechanisms that award direct access to smallholder farmers, a shift of finance towards greater project implementation, and the removal of cumbersome application procedures in multilateral climate funds. It also calls on additional support from private sector partners.



Guarantee the Loss and Damage Fund will provide adequate support to smallscale farmers and ensure financial pledges are forthcoming

The EAFF acknowledges the need to compensate vulnerable communities for the acute as well as slow onset of disasters that lead to losses and damages, with recognition that small-scale farmers and pastoralists are particularly hard hit by climate disasters such as droughts and floods. The EAFF calls for a focus on loss and damage mechanisms that work for farmers, where finance goes where it's needed and where finance is sufficiently channelled to local actors and implementers on the ground. In addition, EAFF calls for early and meaningful pledges to the Loss and Damage Fund.



Urgently increase ambition and the overall global collective effort to climate change

EAFF acknowledges the findings of [Working Group II of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report](#) that looks at Africa's vulnerabilities to climate change and highlights the particular exposure and vulnerability of the food and agriculture sector. The EAFF also takes note of [synthesis report](#) for the first global stocktake which clearly highlights that the world is not on track to keep 1.5°C temperature goal alive and that urgent commitments are needed from the developed countries to increase mitigation. Amongst other risks, global warming above 2°C will result in yield reductions for staple crops across most of Africa and it will also pose a significant threat to African marine and freshwater fisheries.

At the heart of these discussions is social justice and equity. While the agricultural sector accounts for one-third of total GHG emissions, Africa is one of the lowest contributors to GHG emissions and yet is experiencing widespread losses and damages. EAFF therefore calls for additional support to agriculturally dependent African economies as they transition towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. This will require the protection of livelihoods and job security, as well as a solution that truly and meaningfully includes women and young farmers, food producers, and small agricultural businesses. In addition, the maintenance of soil health and the protection of nature and biodiversity must remain at the heart of a truly sustainable and equitable COP28 outcome.



In addition, the EAFF would like to call attention to the following key matters:

Africa continues to be constrained by many other barriers. Of great concern are the trade conditions of the European Union's recently adopted Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and their restrictions as they relate to the agricultural exports of EAFF's member countries.

Importantly, the EAFF recognises that farmer organisations cannot address the impacts of climate change alone and that a solution requires the enhanced support of all international actors and investment partners. In this regard, EAFF would also like to highlight their support and alignment with global processes and frameworks that recognise the importance of sustainable agriculture as a global climate solution, including, among others, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

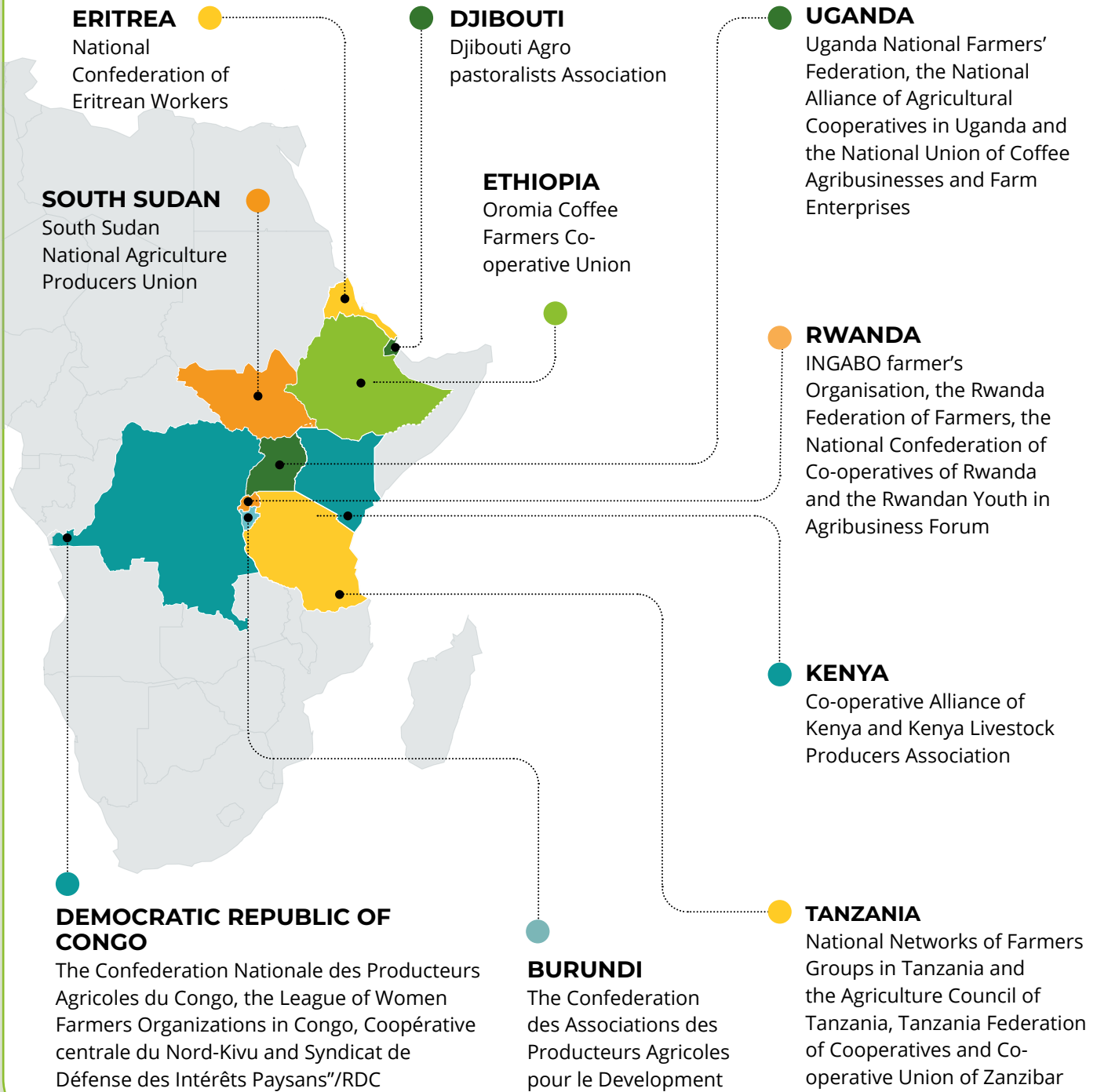
The EAFF applauds the efforts of the high-level champions and other non-state actor groupings related to their call-to-actions on rural just transitions and sustainable food systems. In addition, the EAFF encourages the ambition of the United Arab Emirates, the COP28 President, for its inclusion of food and agriculture as priority areas at COP28. In this regard, the EAFF supports the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action.

Lastly, as a farmer organisation we commit to the following process

- 1** To continuously consult its membership on climate change and to support discussions, proposals and the monitoring of programmes that emanate from the local level;
- 2** To support members in partnership with different expertise, to interpret and communicate the decisions on COP and other related reports;
- 3** To contribute physically in high-level climate meetings and to lobby to have member associations included in national programmes;
- 4** To participate in any partnership programmes that will help the EAFF to better document adaptation practices by farmers that are scalable;
- 5** To call for additional financing for farmers to support both their climate-related activities;
- 6** To lobby for the easing of funding mechanisms so that farmers can directly benefit from loss and damage compensation, as well as from adaptation financing.



MEMBER SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENT



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