

Dear Presidents, Ministers, Delegates,

In five months, the COP30 Summit will begin, and we urge you to take decisive action to ensure the transformation of our global food systems for climate resilience and food security. In the recent COP Troika Joint Statement on the Roadmap to Mission to 1.5 (26 February 2025), the need to scale up ambition and implementation to secure a livable planet is emphasized. COP30 in Belém provides an important opportunity to address the urgent need for a transition away from meat overconsumption.

At COP29 in Baku, a coalition of civil society organizations, including members of the Food & Climate Action Group, [called for the reform](#) of agri-food systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with scientific recommendations, the [World Bank](#), and [FAO's 2024 report](#). The urgent need for change is underscored by the high-emission nature of animal agriculture, which contributes between 14.5% and 19.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions. At COP29, [27 low-income countries](#) urged high-income countries to start GHG-emission pricing in food systems, using tax revenues partly for climate finance for low-income countries.

We urge the representatives present in Belém to build on the support already provided by these states to commit to concrete and meaningful steps towards a reforming of food systems to help secure a livable planet and meet the targets of the Paris Agreement.

The Problem

Current agricultural practices, particularly in high-income countries, are causing immense harm to both our climate and human health. Especially in the OECD and China, [meat consumption per capita far exceeds dietary guidelines](#) and planetary boundaries, contributing significantly to climate change and public health issues. Furthermore, these practices are increasing inequality, especially in low-income countries, which are already suffering from the impacts of climate-induced disasters.

Our Asks

We call on world leaders to make the following commitments at or before the COP30 in Belém:

- **Commit to a Just Transition:** Commit to, and support, policies that transition away from meat and dairy overconsumption and align food systems with the Paris Agreement targets.
- **Reform Agricultural Subsidies.** Redirect subsidies supporting high-emission agricultural products towards more sustainable and plant-based alternatives, and provide support for farmers transitioning to lower animal agriculture production.
- **Implement GHG-Emission Pricing.** Implement policies that put a price on GHG emissions, reflecting their environmental impact, for instance by taxing agricultural emissions (following the [example of Denmark](#)) or by putting in place an emission trading system for emissions from the agricultural and food sector (following studies by the EU Commission for [Agri-ETS](#)). Revenues could (partly) support the Loss & Damage Fund.
- **Incentivize Plant-Based Foods.** In addition to redirecting subsidies and putting in place GHG-pricing, adopt other policies to increase availability of and consumer access to plant-based foods, for instance by supporting agricultural innovation, information to consumers, and VAT and other food taxation measures.

Data and Reports

Reports such as the [FAO SOFA 2024](#) report and the [IPCC's latest findings](#) highlight that the global food system is responsible for 33% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with animal agriculture alone [contributing up to 20%](#). The World Bank has emphasized the need for policy reforms in high- and middle-income countries to incentivize low-carbon food production, including vegetables and fruits. Additionally, the [FAO and World Bank](#) have called for taxes in high-income countries on high-emission foods like meat and dairy, with potential revenues directed to reducing taxes on vegetables and fruits. Such VAT-tax reforms would reduce consumer prices for food in Europe while generating income for governments ([Oxford University](#)).

Call to Action

COP30 presents a critical opportunity for leaders to take bold action in reforming our food systems. The evidence is clear, and the time to act is now. We urge you to prioritize the following at COP30:

- **Commit to emission-reducing policies** that transition away from meat overconsumption.
- **Support financial reforms** that shift subsidies and implement GHG-emission pricing.
- **Ensure a just transition** for farmers and vulnerable communities by providing necessary support for adopting more plant-based, sustainable food systems.

We stand ready to work with your governments to ensure that food systems transformation becomes a priority at COP30.

Yours sincerely,
[Signatories]