

ACF COP29 Ministerial Statement

2024 is now virtually certain to surpass 2023 as the hottest year on record, with average annual warming exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for the first time. These historically unprecedented temperatures have, just as the climate models predicted, been accompanied by increasingly violent floods, wildfires, hurricanes and droughts. These have upended food systems the world over and placed farmers' livelihoods – and lives – in jeopardy.

Food systems contribute roughly a third of global emissions, and with over half a billion people depending on farming for their livelihoods, they are a crucial part of the solution. They sit at the intersection of agriculture, food security, health, nature, water, finance, climate, rural development and culture, playing a crucial role in the fight against hunger and in efforts to eradicate poverty.

Family farming emerges as one of the most promising solutions to the challenges faced by food systems. Its role is crucial not only in sustainable food production but also in emissions mitigation, fostering resilient agricultural practices adapted to local realities and safeguarding natural resources.

The **Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation (ACF)** was launched at COP28 last year in response to this challenge. We, the governments of Brazil, Cambodia, Norway, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, came together with a commitment to take a 'whole of government' approach to transforming our national food systems. We are working together to showcase national leadership, facilitate learning, disseminate knowledge and accelerate innovation.

Over the past year, we have met regularly to advance this agenda. We have begun the difficult work of strengthening our national food systems pathways. We have brought our respective national Ministries together to begin making our NDCs and NBSAPs inclusive of food systems and in line with science-based targets. And we have committed to doing this inclusive of the Alliance's ten priority action areas – a systems-wide framework for transforming our food systems in ways that benefit people, nature and the planet.

The Alliance has achieved a great deal in its first year. But to fully realise our vision of food systems transformation, we need others to come on board and help scale the efforts.

We also need to see a rapid and sustained increase in both the overall quantum of climate finance and the proportion going towards transforming food systems, which are estimated to require \$500 billion per year over the next decade. Despite being responsible for a third of greenhouse gas emissions, 90% of deforestation and 60% of biodiversity loss, Food systems received just 3.4% of the total \$115.9bn climate finance mobilised by developed countries in 2022. At Baku this year the focus - rightly - is on the need to urgently mobilise substantial additional finance, both public and private, to achieve climate goals. Within this, as a coalition of ambitious developed and developing nations, the ACF is calling for governments and financial institutions to prioritise climate finance for food systems transformation, via both concessional and innovative funding mechanisms.

Today, we are calling for governments who share our ambition to create a fairer, healthier and more prosperous future to join us. The actions that each of us take within our borders can enhance our peoples' food and nutritional security, boost equity and livelihoods, increase climate resilience, protect and restore nature, and help mitigate climate breakdown.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We urge all parties to step up and demonstrate the leadership that this moment demands of us. The journey will not be easy, but by working together, we can make the transition to a healthier, more equitable and resilient food system faster and less difficult for everyone.