To Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber COP28 President-Designate, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and Climate Ministers of OECD countries and China

cc. OECD Director General, H.E. Barbara Creecy, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa and H.E. Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy of Denmark

Excellencies, colleagues,

In your roles as COP28 President-Designate and as Ministers from OECD countries and China you have a strong commitment to climate action and dedication to ensuring that COP28 is a success. COP28, and the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, can be the turning point we need for climate action in this critical decade. As a consortium of environmental ministers and officials from countries all over the world, we propose the following resolution.

Considering that:

1. The food system causes 33% of all global GHG-emissions according to the UN.[i]
2. GHG-emissions from livestock contributed to 14,5% of global GHG-emissions in 2013[ii] (according to FAO data) and 20% of global GHG-emissions in 2020.[iii] This means global meat and dairy consumption generate the majority of global food related GHG emissions (60%).
3. Meat consumption on average is 26.6 kg per capita/year in developing countries, and 68.6 kg per capita/year in developed countries.[iv]
4. Meat consumption per capita levels in OECD countries and China are in most cases above limits of global and national dietary, as well as planetary, health guidelines.[v] (e.g. EAT).
5. The total global herd size in livestock units is projected to rise by 37 up to 46 percent between 2012 and 2050[vi], which does not align with the Paris Climate Agreement goal of net zero emissions by 2050.
6. The climate footprint of beef (70 kg GHG-emission/kg food), pork (12 kg GHG- emission/kg) and chicken (9,9 kg GHG-emission/kg) is relatively high compared to other food proteins like legumes (2 kg/kg), nuts (0,4 kg/kg), among others.[vii]
7. Meat and dairy cause 80 percent of the climate footprints in EU diets, with similar impacts in other OECD countries like the United States.[viii]
8. The livestock sector is a key driver of land-use change and biodiversity loss, causing 13 billion hectares of forest area being lost each year due to land conversion for agricultural uses as pastures or cropland, with detrimental effects on water, soil, biodiversity, and climate change.[ix]

Recognizing that:

1. The last IPCC report recognized these issues and proposed GHG-emission taxes on meat and dairy in high income countries.[x]
2. The last COP27 Presidency also addressed high meat consumption levels in high income countries and the need to reduce it.[xi]
3. The meat consumption is considerably higher in OECD countries (71.4 kg/capita)[xii] and China (61.89 kg/capita)[xiii] than the world-wide average (42.26 kg/capita).[xiv]
4. Small island developing states (SIDS) and G77 low income countries in Africa and Asia suffer most from these effects in the forms of severe climate change, loss of harvests, sea level rise and deforestation.[xv]
5. That policies to reduce meat consumption are underrepresented in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as reflected on in the first Global Stocktake (GST).[xvi]
6. Our concern is reflected by the global community, as two years ago, five thousand companies and NGO's from over a hundred countries signed a letter to the presidents of the fifty countries that

consume the most meat per capita, asking them to implement policies to reduce the consumption of meat and dairy through carbon pricing systems.[xvii]

We believe COP28 and next COP29 and COP30 can only be successful if:

1. It includes meat consumption reduction policies in the center of programs for reducing emissions before 2030 (e.g. Methane Pledge), mitigation, climate finance, Loss and Damage, retail and meat industry pledges, especially in OECD countries and China.
2. It includes meat consumption reduction policies in the climate-health ministerial Declarations, since reducing (over)consumption of meat in OECD countries and China has huge public health benefits.
3. It includes global and national meat consumption reduction commitments for OECD and China, and the need for carbon pricing mechanisms for meat production or food consumption in Head of State and government-level declarations for Food Systems, Agriculture, and Climate Action.
4. It asks the OECD, the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition, G20, China and the EU Commission to lead the way towards harmonized carbon pricing in food-systems, starting with meat.
5. It considers using the revenue of food-system GHG-emissions taxes in OECD countries and China, to fund at least 15-20% of climate finance for the Loss and Damage Fund.

As signatories of this letter, our countries want to give a clear signal to consider not to sign any COP agreement unless concrete actions are taken or will be committed to address these issues. By highlighting the connection between overconsumption of meat and the global climate crisis, we seek to generate a sense of urgency and promote collaborative action among all nations. We hope our concerns are considered so that COP28 and future COPs can become a success. Thank you very much in advance,

List of signatories (10th December 2023):

1. **ABBAS LAWAL, Balarabe,** Minister of Environment Nigeria
2. **CHEPTORIS, Sam,** Minister of Water and Environment Uganda
3. **TOIRAMBE BAMONINGA, Benjamin,** Secretary General for the Environment and Development République Démocratique du Congo

Non-OECD countries can sign the letter by filling in this form :
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRqhEAsvrvAG7yKJbdkYZASJaRPZUC3a4lcToIKH1N3FqsJg/viewform
Or by sending an email to info@tappcoalitie.nl with the name and title of the Minister. Updates:
https://www.tappcoalition.eu/nieuws/21297/african-countries-urge-rich-countries-to-tax-meat-at-cop28

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