

THE PRE-COP29 ROUND TABLE 7th NOVEMBER 2024

ON THE PRICING OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR OF OECD COUNTRIES AND CHINA IN GHANA

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Africa contributes only 4% of global carbon emissions, yet it is the continent that will suffer the most from climate change. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. According to International Rescue Committee, of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate disasters, seven are in Africa. Currently, 17 of the 20 countries most threatened by climate change are in Africa and climate change already impacts 2 to 9% of national budgets across the continent [1]. According to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), North and West Africa are particularly vulnerable with expected temperature increases of 1.5°C to 3°C which pose a significant threat to population health, productivity and food security. In response, African countries must redirect an increasing share of their public finances towards mitigation efforts and the protection of their populations, thus depriving themselves of the resources needed to finance development, preserve development gains and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate change is caused by increased use of fossil fuels and increased consumption of meat and dairy products, especially in high-income countries. Rising temperatures are particularly high in African countries, leading to droughts, crop failures, food insecurity, hunger, disease and poverty. Climate change also leads to increased rainfall, causing floods and human disasters, such as a few years ago in Nigeria and Pakistan. The food system is responsible for 33% of all global GHG emissions according to the UN. GHG emissions from livestock contributed to 14.5% of global GHG emissions in 2013 (according to FAO data), but its contribution to climate change increased to 20% of global GHG emissions in 2020 (University of Illinois study in 2021). This means that global consumption of meat and dairy products generates the majority of global food-related GHG emissions (60%). Average meat consumption is 26.6 kg per capita/year in developing countries (low-income countries) and 68.6 kg per capita/year in developed countries.

Per capita meat consumption levels in OECD countries and China are in most cases above the limits of global and national dietary recommendations, as well as planetary health recommendations (e.g. the EAT planetary diet). The total size of the global livestock population in livestock units is projected to increase by 37–46% between 2012 and 2050, which is not in line with the Paris Climate Agreement's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. The climate footprint of beef (70 kg GHG emissions/kg feed), pork (12 kg GHG emissions/kg) and chicken (9.9 kg GHG emissions/kg) is relatively high compared to other dietary proteins such as legumes (2 kg/kg), nuts (0.4 kg/kg), among others. Meat and dairy products account for 80% of the climate footprint in EU diets, with similar impacts in other OECD countries such as the United States. The livestock sector is a major driver of land-use change and biodiversity loss, causing the loss of 13 billion hectares of forest area each year due to the conversion of agricultural land to pasture or cropland, with adverse impacts on water, soil, biodiversity and climate change.

The global food system currently represents approximately \$11 trillion in hidden costs, such as climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, water pollution, healthcare costs, inadequate wages, child labor, etc. Fair pricing is increasingly being addressed at national and international levels by businesses, governments, consumers and scientists as a solution for a sustainable food system. New projects on

fair pricing within food value chains are important and have a significant impact in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

According to the Hidden Cost of Food (SOFA) report by FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, food entails hidden costs (externalities) such as environmental costs (e.g. climate damage) or social costs (such as diseases caused by unhealthy diets). According to FAO, the hidden costs of food are three times higher than the prices of food paid in supermarkets. A change in diet (less meat, more healthy foods such as plant-based vegetables, fruits) can reduce hidden costs. According to a 2021 World Bank report on obesity, taxes on foods with negative health impacts (sugar, beverages, red/processed meat, junk food, etc.) as well as subsidies for healthy diets are needed in all countries, including low- and middle-income countries, to combat obesity and overweight and control the rising costs to public health. Real food pricing, including the environmental and social costs hidden in food prices, is considered an important solution to combat climate change, reduce healthcare costs and protect human health. In the same way that CO2 taxes on fossil fuels aim to reduce the climate costs of energy consumption, governments can introduce environmental or climate taxes per kilogram of food, with tax rates referring to the calculated “real costs”. Revenues from such taxes can be used to reduce taxes or prices on food products with a low climate or health impact, to compensate low-income groups with additional subsidies and/or to contribute to the new UN Fund for Loss and Damage. In the graphs below, the concept of real food prices is explained (reference situation for the United States and for meat: the Netherlands).

References: Wageningen University Report on Health Costs per kg of Red/Processed Meat, 2023: Health costs of €7.5 per kg of red meat overconsumption - True Animal Protein Price Coalition (tappcoalition.eu) and CE Delft report on environmental costs per kg of meat, dairy and eggs in Europe: <https://cedelft.eu/publications/pay-as-you-eat-dairy-eggs-and-meat-internalising-external-costs-of-animal-food-products-in-france-germany-and-the-eu27/>

Globally, meat and dairy production accounts for 20% of all GHG emissions and production and consumption levels continue to rise. This is a threat to the Earth and the Paris Climate Goals. Rich OECD countries and China, countries that consume too much meat, should take the lead in taxing meat or introducing GHG tax systems on food that will also increase meat and dairy prices and reduce consumption. Tax revenues could be used for a variety of purposes, including the new Loss and Damage Fund to compensate low-income countries for loss and damage caused by GHG emissions (including overconsumption of meat). At the last UN climate conference COP28 in December 2023, the TAPP Coalition mobilized support for this proposal. Three African climate ministers from Nigeria, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, representing 30% of all African citizens, have signed a letter to leaders of OECD countries and China on this issue.

<https://www.tappcoalition.eu/images/COP28Letter2pager-version2Dec2023-1-1702201043.pdf>

The TAPP/ACAI Coalition also seeks to reach an agreement at COP29 or COP30 on the “**transition away from beef or meat consumption, particularly in high-income and high-consumption countries,**” similar to the COP28 declaration on the “**transition away from fossil fuel consumption**”.

<https://africaclimate-actioninitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/COP29-Declaration-AgriFood-and-Climate-Pricing-for-the-Loss-Damage-Fund-final-1.pdf>

It is in this context that the TAPP/ACAI Coalition aims to raise awareness among Ghanaian policy makers, the EU, AU, environmental NGOs in Ghana, the OECD, ECOWAS and UNEP office in Ghana on the environmental implications of current levels of meat consumption (high environmental and social costs

per kg of meat) and to stimulate the integration of genuine meat pricing or tax policies into the climate change mitigation and climate finance strategies of OECD countries and China.

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Raise awareness of the environmental impacts of meat consumption:

Raise awareness among Ghanaian policy makers, the EU, AU, OECD, ECOWAS and UNEP Ghana office on the high environmental and social costs per kilogram of meat, including its contribution to deforestation, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, water depletion and biodiversity loss.

2. Promote the integration of real meat pricing into climate policy:

Stimulate discussions on integrating real meat pricing or fiscal policies into global climate change mitigation strategies, with the aim of reflecting the true environmental costs associated with meat production and consumption.

3. Encourage political action and collaboration:

Mobilize stakeholders to support the inclusion of real meat pricing mechanisms in national and international climate finance strategies. This will serve as a tool to promote sustainable food systems and contribute to climate resilience in Africa and globally.

4. Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships:

Encourage collaboration between environmental NGOs, government officials, international organisations and the private sector to lobby for policies that support reduced meat consumption in climate action plans, building on best practices from the OECD and developing countries.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Better understanding of the environmental impact of meat consumption:

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the environmental degradation caused by current patterns of meat production and consumption, particularly their effects on climate change.

2. Commitment to real meat pricing policies:

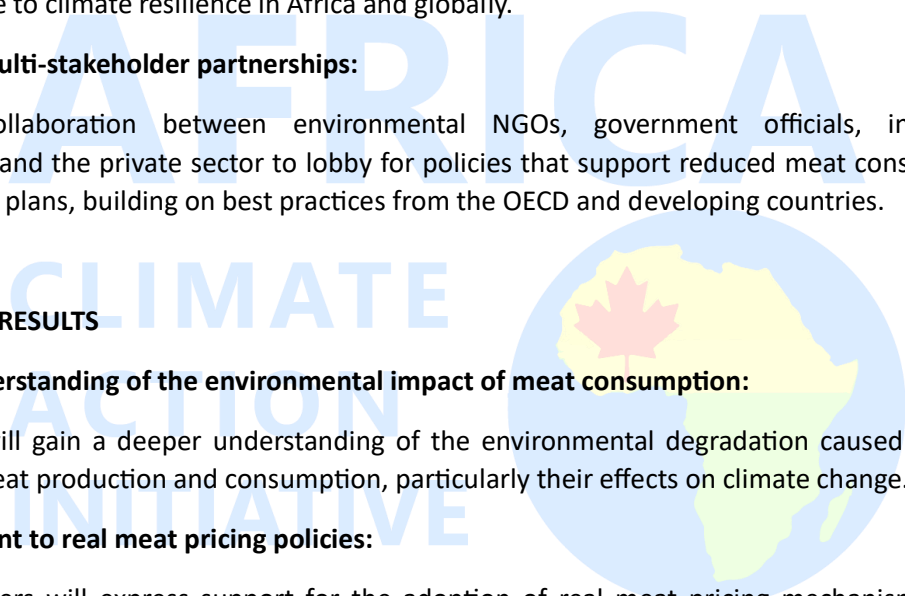
Key stakeholders will express support for the adoption of real meat pricing mechanisms or meat taxation policies in climate strategies, thereby contributing to global mitigation efforts.

3. Policy recommendations for COP29 discussions:

Concrete policy recommendations will emerge from the roundtable, which will be forwarded for inclusion in COP29 discussions on climate finance, food systems and carbon pricing frameworks.

4. Strengthened networks and partnerships:

Strengthened cooperation between Ghanaian policy makers, international organizations and NGOs to implement sustainable consumption practices and policies that align with national and international climate goals.



IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Opening remarks and keynote presentations

The roundtable will begin with a welcome address by the ACAI Executive Director, opening remarks by key representatives including the Honourable Minister of Environment of Ghana and high-level participants from the EU, AU and UNEP Ghana office. Keynote presentations will follow, focusing on the environmental and social costs of meat consumption and the global urgency to address these issues in climate policies.

2. Round table

A moderated roundtable will bring together representatives from the Ghanaian government, international climate experts and NGOs to discuss the possibility of integrating real meat pricing or taxation policies into the climate strategies of OECD countries and China, by sharing scientific data on meat consumption, particularly from OECD countries.

3. Small group sessions

Participants will be divided into small groups to brainstorm concrete strategies for integrating real meat pricing into climate finance and policy frameworks. Each group will focus on specific themes such as public awareness, policy design (NDCs) and international cooperation.

4. Presentation of the group's conclusions

After the breakout sessions, each group will present its findings and recommendations. These will be compiled and synthesized into a draft proposal for a real meat pricing policy that will be shared with policy makers in OECD countries, including for the COP29 discussions.

5. Closing remarks and next steps

The session will conclude with a summary of key points, commitments from different stakeholders and an overview of next steps for continued engagement and advocacy in the lead up to COP29.

This structured methodology ensures that all participants actively engage in the discussions and that the roundtable produces concrete and actionable results for the advancement of climate policies. **V.**

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

-Moderator;

-Rapporteur;

-Protocol;

- Secretariat for sending or submitting invitations.

1- The Target

- Ghana's Minister of Environment;
- Structures under the supervision of the Ministry of the Environment;
- International and regional institutions;

- International, regional and national non-governmental organizations;
- The press

2- Expected products

-Activity report


-List of participants;

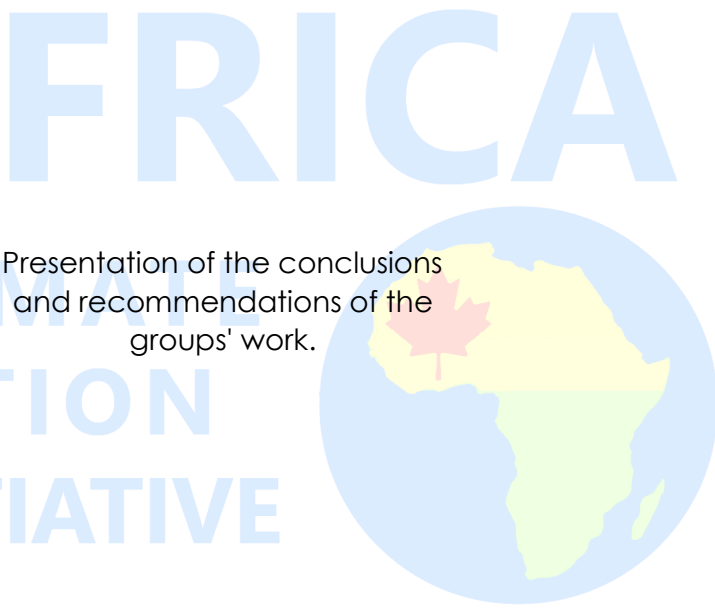
-Discharges of participating trips;

-Invoice for communication media (banner, flyers, ToR , etc.) and work tools (notepad, pen, etc.), telephone, wifi;

-Videos and images

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE PRE-COP29 ROUND TABLE		
November 7, 2024		
Venue: Conference Room of the Miklin Hotel		
Schedules	Activity	Responsible persons
Morning: installation and launch		
08:30-8:55 a.m.	Welcome and installation	steering Committee
Opening Remarks and Keynote Presentations		

<p>9:00-9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FRICA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Welcome address from Executive Director of ACAI</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">AFRICA CLIMATE INITIATIVE</p>	<p>Mr. Nana Yaw Ofori Agyei</p>
	<p>Speech by the Minister of MESTI</p>	<p>Hon. Ophelia Mensah Hayford.</p>
	<p>Intervention by the representative of the AU Office in Ghana</p>	<p>Speaker</p>
	<p>intervention by the representative of the EU delegation to Ghana</p>	<p>Mr. Timothy Dolan</p>
	<p>Statement by the representative of the UNEP Office in Ghana</p>	<p>Speaker</p>
	<p>Keynote presentation on the environmental and social costs of meat consumption by the Executive Director of the TAPP Coalition (online)</p>	<p>Mr. Jeroom Remmers</p>
	<p>Keynote presentation on the global urgency of addressing these issues in climate policies</p>	<p>Technical Committee</p>

Family photo – Coffee break		
Round table		
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Discussion on the possibility of integrating actual meat pricing or taxation policies into the climate strategies of OECD countries and China , by sharing scientific data on meat consumption, particularly in OECD countries.	Moderator Participants
Small group sessions		
10:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.	1. Public awareness	Group 1
	2. policy design	Group 2
	3. international cooperation	Group 3
Presentation of the group's conclusions		
11:40 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	 <p>Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the groups' work.</p>	Group rapporteurs

Lunch Break

Closing remarks and next steps

12:15- 12:30 p.m.	A summary of key points, stakeholder commitments and an overview of next steps for continued engagement and advocacy in the lead up to COP29	Technical Committee
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