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Smart regulations can expedite the proliferation and implementation of wise ideas.

National governments have plenary and ample authority to change their own laws. They may lack relatively inexpensive technical support for legal drafting and assurances of litigation support if those laws are challenged by companies or exporting countries in national courts or international trade dispute resolution tribunals. United Nations institutions are generally reluctant to take sides in litigation between member states and in domestic courts except, for example, in supporting general improvements to general litigation and prosecution policy, for example, rights of children in criminal, adoption, and child protection proceedings.

The threat to the right to a healthy environment posed by greenhouse gas emissions from ruminant animals is real and substantial. Globally, widespread poverty is the main impediment to ruminants rivalling the harm fossil fuels contribute to an over-heating planet. Generally, as incomes rise, so does consumption of meat, including beef, goat, and lamb meat. Some of the evidence of this harm comes from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UN Secretary General's Independent Group of Scientists, a Lancet Commission, a group of experts at Oxford University, and a report published in the prestigious journal *Nature Food*.

By many accounts outside of FAO, the vast majority of GHG emissions from food systems come from ruminant animals (especially cattle) which collectively contribute approx. 1/5th of total GHG with feed changes, etc. leading to only small reductions. Because methane reductions can lead to faster reductions in temperature, reducing the production and consumption of these animals seems to be a terribly under-utilized means of cooling the planet. In particular:

- The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that the vast majority of food-related contributions to harmful greenhouse gas emissions emanate from cattle and that food systems contribute 21–37% of total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.⁴
- The United Nations Secretary General's Independent Group of Scientists recommended, in part, the following to achieve the SDGs: "global reduction in meat consumption of around 40–50 per cent..."⁵
- The recent Lancet Commission report repeated observations that 30% of GHG emissions comes from food systems, of which 57% comes from the production of red meat and milk (mostly from ruminants).⁶
- An Oxford University team found that GHG emissions from meat and other animal-origin foods are vastly higher than plant-based food.⁷
- A study published in *Nature Food* and posted on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) website: estimated that 57% of GHG emissions from the food system comes from livestock.⁸

Consumers and ranchers be made aware of this so they can make future purchases and animal husbandry decisions in an informed, sustainable way. FAO must encourage itn aMCID 42 BDC 0 T8

governments to make sustainability labelling rules mandatory, regardless of whether companies make green claims. (See:

Please consider the consultation and negotiation of a United Nations Code of Conduct for engaging with civil society and experts to make United Nations standard-setting and guidance more accountable and robust.

To date the call for the Code of Conduct has been endorsed by 421 CSOs and experts. There is a great deal of encouraging rhetoric about the importance of civil society participation in UN deliberations, but a patchwork of practices across UN institutions, many of which severely impede or impair the participation of CSOs. The call for a Code of Conduct urges 19 features, including:

- 1) establish a _____ with only reasonable constraints on communications (in-person-only meetings supplemented only by UN WebTV are common),
- 2)

widely acknowledge rhetoric of solidarity—outstripping foreign COVID-specific aid, in some cases by approximately 1,000-fold (\$10,000 per citizen in Canada (at p. 4 of the Nov 2020 Economic Statement) compared to the sum mustered for all foreign aid for from all countries of approximately \$6 billion to support 6.5 billion residents in Low- and Middle Income Countries.

³ Launch event of *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022* July 6, 2022, New York. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5880/icode/>

⁴ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). *Special Report on Climate Change and Land, CH05, Food Security. Executive Summary*. 2019. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/src cl/chapter/chapter5/>

⁵ Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General (2023). *Global Sustainable Development Report 2023: Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Science for Accelerating Transformations to Sustainable Development*. United Nations, New York. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/gedr/gedr2023>

⁶ Romanello M, Napoli CD, et al. The 2023 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: the imperative for a health-centred response in a world facing irreversible harms. *The Lancet*. 2023 Nov 13:S0140-6736(23)01859-7. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(23)01859-7. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37977174. Available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(23\)01859-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(23)01859-7/fulltext)

⁷ Clark M, Springmann M, Rayner M, Scarborough P, Hill J, Tilman D, Macdiarmid JI, Fanzo J, Bandy L, Harrington RA. Estimating the environmental impacts of 57,000 food products. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 2022 Aug 16;119(33):e2120584119. Bill Jeffery. Conference Notes. “The contribution of Ruminant Animal Meat to Greenhouse Gas Emissions and a Warming Planet.” 7th