

Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

Comments by Compassion in World Farming

Compassion in World Farming is an accredited organisation with UNEA.

We warmly welcome the draft Ministerial Declaration and would like to make the following comments:

Main priority 2: paragraph (d)

We suggest this should be added to as indicated in red:

d) We target the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices **such as agroecology** to support sustainable, **humane** food production through improved value generation and to ensure food safety and security **and the improvement of soil quality**.

We also suggest the addition of two new paragraphs after paragraph (d) of Main Priority 2:

- d1) We foster livestock systems in which animals convert materials that cannot be consumed by humans into food that we can eat and discourage the use of human-edible crops as animal feed.**
- d2) We encourage sustainable food consumption patterns that avoid undue use of resource-intensive foods that have a large environmental footprint.**

Justification for proposed new paragraph d1:

Industrial production is dependent on feeding human-edible cereals to animals who convert them very inefficiently into meat and milk. Globally around 40% of crop calories are used as animal feed.^{1 2 3}

For every 100 calories of human-edible cereals fed to animals, just 17-30 calories enter the human food chain as meat or milk.^{4 5} For every 100 grams of protein in human-edible cereals fed to animals, just 43 grams of protein enter the human food chain as meat or milk.⁶ The FAO warns that further use of cereals as animal feed could threaten food security by reducing the grain available for human consumption.⁷

Justification for proposed new paragraph d2:

Paragraph (d) addresses food production but at present the draft Ministerial Declaration does not deal with food consumption even though the theme of UNEA-4 involves both sustainable production and consumption.

¹ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. 2017. The Global Land Outlook, page 124

² Cassidy E.M *et al*, 2013. Redefining agricultural yields: from tonnes to people nourished per hectare. University of Minnesota. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 8 034015.

³ Pradhan *et al*, 2013. Embodied crop calories in animal products. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 8 (2013) 044044

⁴ Lundqvist, J., de Fraiture, C. Molden, D., 2008. Saving Water: From Field to Fork – Curbing Losses and Wastage in the Food Chain. SIWI Policy Brief. SIWI.

www.siwi.org/documents/Resources/Policy_Briefs/PB_From_Filed_to_Fork_2008.pdf

-
- ⁵ Nellesmann, C., MacDevette, M., Manders, T. *et al.*, 2009. The Environmental Food Crisis – The environment's role in averting future food crises. A UNEP rapid response assessment. United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, www.unep.org/pdf/foodcrisis_lores.pdf
- ⁶ Berners-Lee *et al.*, 2018. Current global food production is sufficient to meet human nutritional needs in 2050 provided there is radical societal adaptation. *Elem Sci Anth*, 6: 52.
- ⁷ FAO, 2013. Tackling climate change through livestock