Climate crisis, food and nutrition insecurity, biodiversity loss and social inequalities underscore the urgent need to accelerate food systems transformation. These interconnected crises, which transcend national borders and generate global impacts, require national and subnational governments to implement public policies capable of fostering convergence and coherence across sectoral agendas at the territorial level.

In response to these challenges, and building on the opportunity created by the COP30 Presidency's invitation to contribute to the Action Agenda, Brazil's Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) proposed the **Acceleration Plan for Solutions (PAS) for the Convergence and Coherence of Food Systems and Climate Action Policies - COACT**.

COACT was co-created with partners[1] who recognize the strategic role of food systems in addressing climate change. While food systems contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, they are also highly vulnerable to climate impacts, which affect food production, food supply, livelihoods and access to adequate and healthy food, particularly among populations in vulnerable situations.

Hosted by the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network, the initiative aims to accelerate food systems transformation towards healthier and more sustainable outcomes in face of the climate emergency. In this context, COACT seeks to support national and subnational governments in developing and strengthening their institutional capacities through methodologies and tools that enable the translation of political commitments into effective implementation strategies aligned with international climate agreements, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The COACT PAS builds on the experience and lessons learned from multiple countries, including Brazil's accumulated experience in the development and implementation of the Reference Framework on Food Systems and Climate for Public Policies. The Framework works as a guiding tool to support governments in designing integrated responses to climate and food-related challenges, promoting a systemic approach grounded in human rights, climate justice, sustainability, and the promotion of adequate and healthy diets.

Brazil's experience demonstrates that policy convergence and coherence need to be grounded in democratic multilevel governance and translated into action across different levels of government.

COACT is being conceived as a post-COP30 agenda and as one of Belém's legacies to the global agenda on climate, food systems and sustainable development. COACT is aimed at strengthening international cooperation, collective learning and the implementation of concrete solutions for food systems transformation in response to the climate crisis.

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub; the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN); Switzerland's Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), in its capacity as co-lead of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS Programme); UN Nutrition; the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement; Tilt Collective; Brazil's National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (Consea); the Josué de Castro Chair on Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems; Comida do Amanhã Institute; and Regenera Institute.

HOW IS COACT STRUCTURED?

Building on the understanding that challenges related to climate change and food systems transformation transcend national borders, and that national and subnational governments face similar barriers in implementing their policies, COACT has been structured as a platform for cooperation and action.

In practical terms, COACT is structured around **three complementary workstreams** for countries: political mobilization; strengthening institutional capacities; and the sharing of solutions to accelerate the integrated implementation of climate and food systems agendas.

The **FIRST** focuses on mobilizing and raising awareness among countries in multilateral and international spaces to strengthen political commitment to the food systems and climate agenda. This pillar includes participation in strategic international events—such as the COPs, the Committee on World Food Security, the Nutrition for Growth Summit, and stocktaking moments of the UN Food Systems Summit—as well as the organization of side events, regional workshops and thematic dialogues.

The **SECOND** pillar focuses on capacity development and strengthening. In this regard, CO-ACT partners have committed to delivering training and learning processes for decision-makers and civil society leaders. This includes international courses, peer-learning sessions, case study development, and the validation and implementation of tools that support national and subnational governments in advancing policy convergence and coherence. Particular emphasis is placed on integrating these approaches into NDCs, NAPs, and other international instruments and commitments related to climate action and sustainable development.

The **THIRD** focuses on strengthening communities of practice, international cooperation, and exchange among governments, civil society, and academia. COACT aims to provide a space for dialogue, peer learning, technical cooperation, and knowledge co-creation, fostering collaboration across sectors and stakeholders to advance more coherent and integrated policy approaches.

Particular emphasis is placed on the contribution of the trilateral cooperation between MDS, ABC (Brazilian Cooperation Agency), and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to urban food systems transformation within COACT. Countries across Latin America and the Caribbean have been engaging in mutual cooperation and, through these exchanges, contribute case studies, lessons learned, and practical solutions that can help accelerate more effective responses towards food systems transformation and climate action.

INITIAL COACT DELIVERABLES FOR COUNTRIES

- International courses for the global community to deepen critical understanding of the interconnections between food systems and climate, and to promote the integration of food systems into NDCs and other international commitments (MDS, Brazil, and the Josué de Castro Chair, Brazil).
- Food provisioning and public procurement protocols for upcoming COPs, aligned with the principles of sociobiodiversity, agroecology, and family farming, drawing on the experience of COP30 (*Instituto Regenera* and *Instituto Comida do Amanhã*).
- Promotion of free and democratic civic spaces that enable inclusive and participatory food systems governance at all levels, contributing to food systems transformation through a human rights-based approach (Consea).
- Delivery of six learning series led by FAO Rome, together with six sessions showcasing country experiences from across territories. (National Pathways WG, FAO).
- Launch of the report "Cross-Country Analysis: Advancing Policy for Agrifood Systems Transformation – Emerging Lessons from 10 Country Experiences." Brazil is among the 10 featured countries, with the experience of Alimenta Cidades (National Pathways WG, FAO).
- Cooperation with Colombia and Peru to support the development of national documents inspired by Brazil's Reference Framework through trilateral cooperation (ABC, MDS/Brazil and FAO).
- Development of case studies documenting national and subnational experiences (ABC, MDS/Brazil and FAO).
- Development of a policy convergence and coherence document by a partner country, inspired by the experience of Brazil's Reference Framework on Food Systems and Climate for Public Policies (MDS, Brazil).
- Analytical report assessing policy coherence and convergence at the subnational level across food systems, climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and social policies (PNUMA).
- Dissemination of lessons learned and good practices from Latin America in international multilateral and multistakeholder spaces (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub).

HOW WILL THE COACT BE IMPLEMENTED?

The COACT will be implemented over a five-year period within the framework of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme, through a multistakeholder and multilevel governance structure currently under development. The initiative will seek to structure proposals and mobilize financing mechanisms capable of scaling up action and supporting a greater number of countries in the implementation of integrated policies and solutions for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems.

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