



Gherush92 Committee for Human Rights
Diversity. A Resource for Development

COP28 UNFCCC UAE

Vegan Cities, small farmers welfare and wellbeing, Plant Based Treaty to fight Climate Change

**Dubai, Friday 8 December 2023, 11:30-13:00,
SE Room 8, Blue Zone**

(1) A MANIFESTO AGAINST INTENSIVE ANIMAL FARMING **Delfina Piu, Gherush92**

(slide2) According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the loss of species is attributed primarily to humans' needs and pleasures (e.g., the trading of meat, animal skins, furs, feathers, horns, tusks, fins, and blubber, etc.)

Wild animals are disappearing and slowly the environments and ecosystems that constitute their home are also (irreparably) changing.

(3) For example, wild animals are often forced away from their original habitat typically because of deforestation for intensive farming practices. Intensive farming is frequently intended for the production of animal feed to maintain the even more sad and painful existence of animals in industrial farms.

(4) Tragically, a significant number of wild species live solely with the likely expectation of extinction. Some domesticated animals are raised only to be tortured and eaten.

(5) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (2020), over 70 billion terrestrial animals are killed every year in industrial animal farms.

Most of the meat in the supermarkets and marketplaces is provided by industrial farms. Additionally, industrial farms contribute substantially to climate change, an impact on the environment and human health.

(6) Intensive farming also poses serious environmental problems, for example: exploitation of vast agricultural areas intended for the production of feed (about 2/3th of the world's agricultural land); deforestation for intensive agricultural purposes; consumption of large quantities of water and energy; use of fertilizers and pesticides made necessary by agricultural monocultures intended for the production of animal feed; massive use of antibiotics which causes antibiotic resistance; production of enormous quantities of waste (manure) responsible for the pollution of groundwater and soil; reduction of biodiversity, and much more.

(7) The consumption of meat is also linked to human health and the increase of serious pathologies such as coronary heart disease; the World Health Organization included packaged meat products to its list of carcinogens.

(8) According to FAO in 2006, the processes involved in the livestock sector generate greenhouse gases equivalent to

18% of the total global emissions produced by human activities. According to Gooland and Anhang of the World Watch Institute in to 2009 cite greenhouse gases equate to 51% of the total global emissions produced by human activities.

The livestock sector, however, contributes only to a limited extent of the production of CO₂ emissions (only 9%), but is responsible for other important greenhouse gases: 35-40% of methane emissions, 65% of nitrogen emissions and 68% of ammonia emissions, a gas that contributes to the acidification of ecosystems. Methane originating from digestive processes and produced by flatulence and manure is the main factor, contributing to the most significant (55%) emissions produced by the livestock sector (FAO 2006 and IPCC 2007).

The consumption of meat from industrial farms is unsustainable. This is not an ideological affirmation, but rather an objective confirmation.

(9) The basis for this assertion is related to the high consumption of water, for watering the animals, for waste disposal, for cleaning the breeding facilities; however, a large part of the water (98%) is used for the cultivation of forage (UNESCO, 2010).

(10) Industrial farms are also unsustainable attributed to the continuous and increasing deforestation for the product of forage; industrial farms contribute also to the spread of infectious diseases that require some farmers to adopt

drastic measures to rid themselves of their animals to cut their operating costs: killing their animals.

(11) It would be improper not to mention the large-scale multinationals and countries in the Global South that are involved in land dispossession, rural gentrification of towns and villages, and land grabbing. Often it is the indigenous people and local communities which are the victim of these practices.

(12) A component of providing meat to marketplaces involves a height degree of animal suffering. Slaughterhouses represent the conclusion of a terrifying industrial process which can commonly be described in the following contexts whereby animals are subjected to:

(13) cramped living spaces and overcrowding; poor quality of air, water and food; poor hygiene conditions; disturbances to the biological cycle: sleep deprivation, systems of forced reproduction and castration; forced separation of offspring from mothers; systems of fattening and forced fasting; massive administration of medicines to artificially promote growth; genetic manipulation; aggressive behavior induced by forced farming methods; preventive mutilations without anesthetic; wounds, sores and diseases induced by unnatural breeding methods and congenital pathologies; the continuous slaughters of baby calves for consumption and the cruel conditions of transport.

(14) To recapitulate, Gherush92 has critically examined many aspects of intensive animal farming and food production. This discussion has highlighted how intensive farming contributes

to the extensive cruelty to animals and increased global climate change. The intensive production of meat is responsible for enormous suffering to animals and the impact on the environment.

(15) Individual responses are not enough; we must act now, together with courage, to ban (or limit) intensive farming. The decision must be taken now.

Gerush92 Committee for Human Rights has long been advocating for the abolition of intensive farming and is repeating its request to Governments to issue directives to ban intensive farms. Gherush92 strongly advocate for the adoption of policies which favor the reduction of meat products and meat by-products as an integral part of climate change programs.

(16) Thank You!

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