

**AIM for Climate Ministerial Meeting  
February 21, 2022 - Expo 2020, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

**Summary of Announcements and Participants**

The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate ([AIM for Climate](#)) held its first Ministerial Meeting in the United Arab Emirates on February 21, 2022, at the Expo 2020, during Food, Agriculture, and Livelihoods week – Dubai. Co-chaired by the UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment Her Excellency Mariam Almheiri and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack, the ministerial meeting included the participation of 30 dignitaries and non-government organization representatives:

- Australia ~ Consul General Ian Halliday, Australian Consulate in Dubai
- Azerbaijan ~ Minister Inam Karimov, Ministry of Agriculture
- Bahamas ~ Minister Clay Glenford Sweeting, Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources
- Bangladesh ~ Minister Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Ministry of Agriculture
- Brazil ~ Vice-Minister Fernando Silveira Camargo, Innovation, Sustainable Development and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
- Canada ~ Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (virtual)
- Chile ~ Minister María Emilia Undurraga, Ministerio de Agricultura de Chile (virtual)
- Colombia ~ Angelo Quintero Palacio, Director de Innovación Desarrollo Tecnológico y protección sanitaria, Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (virtual)
- Denmark ~ Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Danish Embassy in the UAE
- Egypt ~ Minister H.E. EL-Said Marzouq El-Qosair, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
- European Commission ~ H.E. Tassos Haniotis, Acting Deputy Director-General of Agriculture
- Guyana ~ Minister Zulfikar Mustapha, Ministry of Agriculture (written)
- Honduras ~ Minister Laura Elena Suazo Torres, Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (virtual)
- Ireland ~ Minister Charlie McConalogue, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (virtual)
- Israel ~ Director-General Naama Kaufman-Fass, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Japan ~ President Koyama Osamu, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
- Morocco ~ Minister Mohammed Sadiki, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests (virtual)
- Mozambique ~ Minister Daniel Nivagara, Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (virtual and written)
- New Zealand ~ Minister Damien O'Connor, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Primary Industries (virtual)
- Philippines ~ Secretary William D. Dar, Department of Agriculture (virtual)
- Republic of Korea ~ Minister Hyeonsoo Kim, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (written)
- Romania ~ State Secretary, Sorin Moise, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (virtual)
- Turkey ~ Deputy Minister Ayşe Aysin Işikgece, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ukraine ~ Deputy Minister Taras Dzoba, Digital Development, Digital Transformations and Digitalization, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food
- United Kingdom ~ Minister Jo Churchill, Climate-Adaptation and Agri-Innovation, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

- Uruguay ~ Minister Francisco Bustillo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (written)
- Vietnam ~ Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (virtual and written)
- Marcelo Mena Carrasco, Chief Executive Officer, The Global Methane Hub (virtual)
- Enock Chikava, Interim Director of Agriculture, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Elizabeth Cousens, President, United Nations Foundation (virtual)
- Justina Nixon-Saintil, Vice President and Global Head, Corporate Social Responsibility IBM

**High-Level Summary: Road from COP26 to COP27** – During the high-level summary segment of the meeting, United Kingdom’s Minister for Agri-Innovation and Climate Adaptation Jo Churchill highlighted that agriculture and food systems are key priorities in the global climate agenda, and added that the United Kingdom would be launching the complete Agriculture Breakthrough in the first half of 2022, with a focus on making climate-resilient, sustainable agriculture the most widely adopted and attractive option for farmers everywhere by 2030.

She was followed by Egyptian Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, H.E. El-Said Marzouq El-Qosair who acknowledged the interconnected relationship between agriculture and climate change, and that innovation such as precision farming, artificial intelligence and ICT technology, is critical to enhancing the resilience of farmers. He also shared that the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) preparatory taskforce is working on an Egypt-led initiative that aligns with the objectives of AIM for Climate, and that Egypt will build on the success of COP26 and host an inclusive COP27 that will drive the climate agenda forward at all levels.

**New \$8B Investment Target for AIM for Climate by COP27** – During the meeting, H.E. Mariam Almheiri announced that the global initiative is setting a new investment target from \$4 billion – pledged at COP26 – to \$8 billion by COP27 in Egypt.

H.E. Almheiri also spotlighted government partners who have already registered their investments in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation over five years (2021-2025) which included Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, New Zealand, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Vietnam. It was noted as part of the presentation that AIM for Climate intends to announce at COP27 the government partners who are increasing investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation over 5 years (2021-2025).

Recognizing the diversity and influential membership of AIM for Climate, H.E. Almheiri warmly welcomed the initiative’s newest country partners: Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, the European Commission, Guyana, Mozambique and Turkey. Secretary Vilsack also welcomed new partners and encouraged all AIM for Climate partners to speak about AIM for Climate with public and private sector organizations and encourage them to also join AIM for Climate.

**Launch of [AIM for Climate Ideations](#)** – H.E. Almheiri announced the launch of AIM for Climate "Ideations", a new cooperation opportunity for all AIM for Climate partners Government Partners, Innovation Sprint Partners and Knowledge Partners to further support the goal and objectives of the initiative by hosting events and activities throughout the year.

AIM for Climate partners are encouraged to work together to facilitate and coordination Ideations, which should be open for participation by all AIM for Climate partners. AIM for Climate will assist with the promotion of these Ideations.

United Kingdom's Minister Churchill announced that the United Kingdom would be hosting an AIM for Climate Ideation event to bring together all partners to collaborate, share ideas and identify priority actions. This Ideation event would also feature discussions around the goals of the [Glasgow Breakthroughs](#) (of which agriculture is one of the five goals), and is scheduled to take place in the first-half of 2022 with more details forthcoming.

**The 2022 Innovation Sprint Focal Areas** – At the ministerial, Secretary Vilsack urged existing AIM for Climate partners and other non-government organizations across businesses and philanthropy to academia, to submit proposals for innovations sprints to be launched at COP27 with a focus on: smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries, methane reduction, emerging technologies and agroecological research.

AIM for Climate will continue to accept proposals for all areas of climate-smart agricultural innovations, but proposals with one or more of the focal areas will receive higher consideration for launch at COP27.

Subsequently, Secretary Vilsack invited non-governmental partner representatives which included Marcelo Mena-Carrasco, CEO of The Global Methane Hub; Elizabeth Cousens, President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation and Enock Chikava, Interim Director for Agriculture at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to present opportunities across the four focal areas. CEO Mena-Carrasco noted that The Global Methane Hub looks forward to working with AIM for Climate to address sector challenges, in particular on innovation sprints related to the focal area methane reduction such as improving animal health and husbandry, livestock manure management, rice paddies or agricultural crop residues, and believes that AIM for Climate is a historic platform. President Cousens announced support from the UN Foundation to host Ideations in support of all four 2022 AIM for Climate Innovation Sprint Focal Areas.

Secretary Vilsack also introduced AIM for Climate's latest innovation sprint, the [IBM Sustainability Accelerator](#), which brings total [innovation sprints](#) up to nine. Justina Nixon-Saintil, Vice President and Global Head, Corporate Social Responsibility at IBM, gave an insightful presentation on the pro-bono social impact program which advances non-profit and government initiatives in support of vulnerable populations while addressing environmental challenges. She highlighted that IBM would be providing \$10 million worth of support focused on sustainable agriculture in India, Malawi and Latin America through the IBM Sustainability Accelerator.

**AIM for Climate Summit in Spring of 2023** – Secretary Vilsack announced that the US would be hosting the AIM for Climate Summit in the spring of 2023, in Washington DC, which would provide a forum for all AIM for Climate partners to come together to accelerate the initiative's goal and objectives.