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## JOINT MEETING

**Joint Meeting of the Hundred and Eighteenth Session  
of the Programme Committee and Hundred and Sixtieth Session  
of the Finance Committee**

**Rome, 4 November 2015**

**PROGRESS REPORT ON FAO STRATEGY FOR PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*

Ms Marcela Villarreal

Director

Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC)

Tel. +3906570-52346

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1. The FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations, approved by the 146<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Council in 2013,<sup>1</sup> provides a framework for FAO's collaboration with CSOs. The Strategy is complemented by a set of tools aimed at guiding FAO staff on how to establish effective partnerships in support of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs).
2. FAO recognizes that CSOs play a crucial role in food security and poverty reduction. They have increasingly shown their capacities and expertise in programme and project design, execution and implementation at regional, national and local levels. This is why FAO is increasing collaboration and articulation with CSOs in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
3. Institutional mechanisms have been established to ensure the neutrality of the Organization and a decentralized approach for the implementation of the Strategy, while also maintaining FAO's fundamental characteristics such as: (i) the capacity to provide a neutral forum for discussion without altering the decision making capacity of Member States; and (ii) the Organization's evidence-based knowledge work.
4. The Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC) is responsible for implementing this Strategy and the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector by fostering effective and efficient collaboration with Non-State Actors (NSAs), including civil society organizations, the private sector, cooperatives, producer organizations, and academic and research institutions.
5. Strategic partnerships have been crucial during 2015 and are expected to demonstrate further results and impacts as they continue to support the implementation of the 2016-17 Programme of Work and Budget. Since the last report,<sup>2</sup> FAO has formalized five agreements with CSOs in support of the SOs,<sup>3</sup> raising the total number of active CSO collaborations to 15.
6. Following the request made during the Joint Meeting of the 116<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme Committee and the 156<sup>th</sup> session of the Finance Committee,<sup>4</sup> a specific progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations is presented. *Section I - Enabling and implementing Strategic Partnerships* of this document reports on the progress made in terms of issues common to both Strategies, including accountability and monitoring; capacity building and support to multi-stakeholder processes;<sup>5</sup> *Section II - FAO Partnerships with civil society organizations* provides specific information on the implementation of the Strategy.

## **I. Enabling and implementing strategic partnerships**

7. Partnerships with NSAs are at the heart of FAO's mission to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Through the implementation of the Strategies, partnerships are increasingly becoming central to the impact of the Organization in its areas of work.
8. For the Organization to respond to the evolving needs and challenges at global and local levels, the effectiveness of its engagement with NSAs covers a number of aspects including: institutional arrangements ensuring alignment with FAO's Strategic Framework; strengthening the capacity of FAO staff; generating wider corporate understanding of the value-added of strategic partnerships; and ensuring good governance and accountability. In addition, relevant FAO-led processes and major events are enhanced by NSAs engagement, facilitating greater and longer-lasting impacts.
9. Ensuring a coherent implementation of the Strategies at decentralized level continues to be a priority for the Organization. The role of the regional Partnership Officers has been strengthened,

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<sup>1</sup> CL 146/REP paragraphs 24-25

<sup>2</sup> JM 2014.2/2

<sup>3</sup> A complete list of partnerships with CSOs, including their link to Strategic Objectives and progress in their implementation can be found at <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/en/>

<sup>4</sup> CL 150/6

<sup>5</sup> *Section I - Enabling and implementing Strategic Partnerships* is also included in the Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Strategy with the Private Sector (JM 2015.2/2).

resulting in increased effective engagement of key stakeholders in the implementation of Regional Initiatives.

10. Furthermore, partnerships are being expanded with the introduction of the new FAO Partnership and Liaison Offices, including the recently opened offices in Azerbaijan, Cameroun, Equatorial Guinea and Kazakhstan. These new offices focus on cooperation between the country and FAO through the development of national and South-South Cooperation projects, as well as promote partnerships with relevant NSAs to facilitate exchanges in matters related to FAO's mandate.

#### **A. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of partnerships**

11. Partnerships with NSAs serve as a means for generating wider and stronger engagement in achieving food security and agricultural development at all levels, directly contributing to results in countries within FAO's Strategic Framework. The Organization has developed a quality assurance and tracking system to ensure that partnerships with NSAs contribute meaningfully to the SOs and are systematically designed with quality, and supported in all their phases. OPC provides guidance and works in close collaboration with staff at headquarters (HQ) and decentralized offices (DOs) and within the Strategic Objectives Management Teams to ensure the development of effective partnerships throughout the following four stages.

12. *Stage 1 - Initiating the partnership:* collaborations with NSAs can be initiated by potential partners and FAO staff at HQ and/or DOs. At national level, in agreement with the government, potential strategic partners are identified in support of the priorities defined in the Country Programming Framework (CPF). In all cases, potential partnerships undergo a risk assessment analysis where FAO conducts a rigorous due diligence screening against a set of eligibility and exclusionary criteria in compliance with UN Global Compact Principles and food and agriculture-related standards considering environmental, social and governance issues.

13. With OPC's guidance, Lead Technical Officers and the Strategic Objectives Management Teams have a key role in monitoring implementation and providing relevant information to assess the partnership's value added to the Organization.

14. *Stage 2 - Designing and implementing the partnership:* during this stage, all steps are taken to formalize the partnership. As the Organization moves forward in the implementation of its Medium Term Plan 2014-2017, OPC ensures that partnerships are designed to directly contribute to the achievement of the SOs results framework. In this regard, a high-level partnership work plan is jointly elaborated from its inception with the direct engagement of Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs), regional offices, FAO Representatives and the partner. The work plan is a requirement in formalizing a partnership to guarantee efficient monitoring of jointly planned activities.

#### *Contribution to Country Programming Framework (CPF)*

15. A renovated system has been in place to streamline the formulation, implementation and reporting of CPFs since May 2015. Partnerships are one of the key issues addressed in this new approach by stressing the need to facilitate the development of effective collaborations with different stakeholders at country level. In liaison with country representatives, FAO assists countries in identifying key local partners, whose contributions can assist in the formulation and implementation of the CPF.

16. *Stage 3 - Monitoring and evaluation of the partnership:* results achieved through partnerships will be included in the corporate end-of-biennium assessment reporting process. In addition, a dashboard for operational monitoring is being put in place to track partnerships progress with the aim to increase accountability.

17. Performance of partnerships is assessed following these criteria:
- a. Contribution to areas of engagement of the FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations: formal collaborations with the civil society organizations should be in at least one of the six areas of engagement included in the Strategy: (i) Field Programme; (ii) Knowledge sharing and capacity development; (iii) Policy dialogue; (iv) Joint use of resources in emergency situations; (v) Normative activities; (vi) Advocacy and communication.
  - b. Contribution to FAO Strategic Framework: a partnership will be assessed based on the review of its contribution to the corporate Outputs by the SPLs and Teams (including FAORs, and regions).
  - c. Replicability and scalability: partnerships yield important lessons learnt which can benefit both FAO and its partners. In particular, when evaluating a partnership, importance is given to the potential opportunities, risks and benefits associated with its replicability and scalability. In fact new partnerships begin with pilot projects in small areas and with a limited time frame allowing for proper assessment of their effectiveness prior to considering to expand them.
  - d. Enhanced visibility: when establishing partnerships with NSAs, FAO increases its potential to raise public awareness on issues of common interest, strengthening networking capacity and outreach. Partners can benefit by reaching broader groups and stakeholders, jointly producing evidence-based information key to decision-making and informing the general public.
18. *Stage 4 - Sustaining partnerships*: during this stage, and after the first three stages have been completed, lessons will be internalized to build greater institutional capacity and guide future decisions in terms of next scenarios whether replicating, upscaling, expanding or terminating the partnership. In 2014, many partnerships have been re-negotiated with partners and stakeholders, adjusting their focus according to lessons learned, and taking the necessary steps for proper expansion.
19. When expanding the collaboration, attention is given to finding ways of securing greater engagement from partner and non-partner organizations, as well as strengthening local capacities to build upon the established cooperation with local government and public sector agencies. The need for engagement to encompass other sectors and key stakeholders is also addressed (relevant multistakeholder processes, regional/global processes).

## **B. Enabling broader capacity development**

20. Ensuring successful implementation of the Strategies at all levels entails the development and dissemination of appropriate tools, knowledge and resources to strengthen the capacity of staff to develop partnerships that address needs identified by FAO and governments at decentralized level. In this regard, in 2015, efforts focused on the development of the capacity development activities in the following areas:
21. Guidance and practical tools on partnerships are now included in the “FAOR Programme & Community” platform to equip FAO Representatives with essential means to facilitate partnerships at regional and country levels. The materials include: short videos, job aids and reference materials. By the end of 2015 a new eLearning product on “Partnerships with Non-State Actors” accessible by all staff will be added to the platform. The resource material and complementary eLearning tools provide guidance on FAO’s approach in partnering with different types of NSAs; main areas of engagement; and risk assessment, pre-screening and partnership approval processes.
22. The publications FAO Strategies for Partnerships with the Private Sector and with Civil Society Organizations<sup>6</sup> are now available in all FAO languages, contributing to increased visibility, awareness and outreach on FAO’s work with NSAs in all regions.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3443e.pdf> and <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3444e.pdf>

### **C. Multistakeholder processes (MSPs)**

23. In recent years, multi-stakeholder processes have emerged as an increasingly important modus operandi. The “FAO Guidelines for Engaging in Multistakeholder Processes” are being drafted. Their purpose is to inform and guide Members FAO staff on the corporate approach for conducting MSPs at global, regional and national levels at initial or advanced stages. They will describe operational procedures and modalities, present guiding principles, and clarify the roles when the Organization leads, hosts, engages and facilitates MSPs. An extensive consultation process is underway, which will seek inputs and advice from Members, multistakeholder partnership secretariats housed within FAO, the Strategic Objectives Management Teams, decentralized offices, and all relevant stakeholders.

24. Parliamentarian activities against hunger: In the framework of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, FAO is partnering with the Latin American and the Caribbean Parliamentary Front against Hunger and its national chapters. The objective is to foster national, regional and multilateral parliamentary commitments - in cooperation with other key stakeholders such as civil society organizations, private sector, academia, cooperatives and producer organizations - towards the development of legal frameworks and public policies that contribute to the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. A South-South Cooperation programme is being set up to build on the successful Latin American experience to support the creation of parliamentary fronts for food security and nutrition (FSN) in Asia and Africa.

## **II. FAO partnerships with civil society organization**

### **A. FAO's approach to partner with civil society organizations (CSOs)**

25. FAO recognizes that CSOs play a critical role in the fight against hunger given their technical expertise, their proximity to the hungry and poor, and their increasing presence in the field. FAO appeals to their knowledge and capacity on a variety of issues related to food security.

26. Civil society in all its various forms - social movements, member based organizations, non-governmental organizations and formal and informal associations - has demonstrated its ability to mobilize, campaign and launch initiatives that seek respect for human rights and a dignified life without poverty and hunger. CSOs have technical and grassroots knowledge that is context-specific and globally important. Their concerns and work often coincide with FAO's work and mandate.

27. FAO works to enhance the quality and impact of its relations with CSOs at the global, regional and national levels, providing the DOs with guidance and advice they may need for successful collaboration with CSOs.

28. Collaboration with CSOs focuses primarily on the following topics and areas of engagement: improve effectiveness and outreach in the implementation of sustainable and inclusive local initiatives, programmes, projects; knowledge sharing and capacity development on key issues related to food insecurity; facilitation of multistakeholder discussions increasing ownership, accountability and sustainability of policy adoption and implementation; joint use of resource in emergency situations; joint awareness raising in the fight against poverty and food insecurity.

29. FAO collaborates with CSOs with two approaches: (i) process-driven outcomes which focus on the participation and inclusion of a wide range of relevant CSOs, ensuring balanced representation in terms of geographic areas, types of organizations and the various constituencies, in order to better inform policy discussions and debates; (ii) output-driven outcomes: on technical work at field level, in which FAO, Member States and partner organizations work towards common outputs, improving the lives of the poor by bringing together FAO's technical expertise with CSOs outreach and local knowledge.

30. Since the last report, FAO has formalized five agreements with CSOs in support of the SOs, raising the total number of active CSO collaborations to 15. Of the five formalized agreements, two directly contribute to SO1; one to SO2; one to SO3; and two are cross-cutting.

## B. Contribution to the achievement of FAO Strategic Objectives

31. The increased collaboration between FAO and CSOs has allowed different organizations to meaningfully support FAO's efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In order to strengthen and systematize these collaborations FAO has conducted numerous technical meetings between main CSO partners and FAO staff at HQ and DOs. These discussions resulted in the identification of synergies and common priorities for the elaboration of joint work plans in support of the implementation of the SOs, Regional Initiatives and local projects and programmes. Related guidance and training has also been provided to the regional offices to ensure an appropriate implementation of the Strategy, including the application of specific criteria when engaging with CSOs.

*SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*

32. Partnerships are at the core of SO1, being one of its pillars to ensure that action can lead to relevant impacts. When contributing to the achievement of SO1, partnerships and collaboration with CSOs provide mechanisms that address the following areas: (a) raising awareness and advocacy activities among CSOs and their broad networks on main issues related to FSN - such as the Right to Adequate Food, the VGGT<sup>7</sup>; (b) increased knowledge sharing and capacity development among CSOs to engage in different FAO processes and programmes at regional and local levels, fostering more inclusive, coherent and strategic coordination mechanisms across sectors and stakeholders for FSN; (c) facilitation of multistakeholder debates and discussions related to sector and cross-sectoral policy frameworks, investment plans, programmes, legislation, codes of conduct and international standards for FSN.

*Key partnerships and collaboration with CSOs contributing to SO1*

33. **Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT):** The VGGT set out internationally accepted principles and standards for responsible practices and provide a framework that the private sector, governments and CSOs can use when developing their own policies and programmes. They also offer stakeholders with their own context-specific answers to essential questions related to the recognition and allocation of tenure rights, the transfer of tenure rights, and the administration of tenure, including the resolution of disputes. In the diverse contexts for VGGT implementation across continents and countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum to promote the VGGT as an instrument to benefit all people in all countries, although there is an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people.

- a) The VGGT encourage the establishment of participatory, gender sensitive, implementable, cost-effective and sustainable processes, including multi-stakeholder forums at the local, national and regional levels. To this effect FAO is engaged in a set of activities at country level, including the delivery of a series of multi-stakeholders national workshops, to reach a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government administrators and representatives of the private sector, academia and CSOs. These interventions are seen as key to creating a wider understanding of the VGGT and to safeguard and monitor implementation. FAO is ensuring that relevant stakeholders provide contributions to the national dialogues, with a view to creating the conditions to establish or strengthen existing multistakeholder platforms at country level. In 2014 and 2015 national workshops were organized in 15 countries (Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda).
- b) FAO is supporting the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty Working Group on Land in the development of the Peoples' Manual for VGGT as an educational and didactic guide designed to provide a practical approach on VGGT and foster understanding among civil society organizations and different actors engaged in their implementation.

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<sup>7</sup> Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

- c) At country level, FAO is supporting capacity development activities targeting CSOs (i.e. indigenous peoples, small-scale farmers, pastoralist communities, fisherfolk and forest communities, among others). In collaboration with FIAN International and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), a modular framework has been developed to increase understanding of VGGT among CSOs and grassroots organizations, taking into account existing methodologies used by CSOs such as the Peoples' Manual for VGGT described above. This framework has been tested in seven countries, namely Guatemala, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Senegal and South Africa. In each country, between 60 and 100 people have been trained to be trainers, and up to 2,500 people per country have been sensitized on the Voluntary Guidelines through meetings, radio programmes, videos and newsletters.
- d) In South Africa, the need for joint implementation of VGGT and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation has been emphasized, given their strong complementarity.
- e) Additionally, specific awareness raising and capacity building activities related to VGGT among CSOs and other relevant regional and national stakeholders have been carried out in collaboration with the following partners: (i) two workshops organized with La Via Campesina among CSOs from Europe and Central Asia; (ii) support provided to the MENA Land Forum V in Tunis, organized by the Housing and Land Rights Network of Habitat International Coalition (HIC-HLRN); (iii) workshops and raising awareness activities implemented with Welthungerhilfe e.V. (WHH) in Sierra Leone; (iv) capacity building activities conducted in Angola with World Vision International (WVI).

34. **The Right to Adequate Food (RTF) in the Context of National Food Security:** a human rights-based approach to food security emphasizes universal, interdependent, indivisible and inter-related human rights, the obligations of States and the roles of relevant stakeholders. In this approach, FAO supports countries and other partners in the promotion and inclusion of the Right to Adequate Food in multistakeholder governance frameworks at national and regional levels.

- a) The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP): FAO is providing technical support to CPLP and its governments, parliaments and non-governmental partners in implementing the Regional Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition approved in 2012 by the CPLP Summit in Maputo. This is done by strengthening multi-stakeholder national governance frameworks for the achievement of national FSN and RTF.
- b) FAO has provided support to Cabo Verde in establishing a National Council for FSN – a multistakeholder mechanism involving CSOs and other relevant local actors in the fight against food insecurity, with a RTF approach. Workshops and capacity building seminars on RTF and FSN governance organized with a broad participation of government representatives and CSOs has strengthened dialogue and deliberations within the Council. As a result, a technical commission has been created for the elaboration of a National FSN Law.
- c) Enhanced capacities on RTF among national stakeholders: in the framework of existing cooperation programmes with Bolivia, El Salvador, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Togo, FAO organized capacity building workshops for a vast array of CSOs, local networks and national stakeholders engaged in RTF and FSN issues, with the main objective of raising awareness on the Voluntary Guidelines on the RTF.
- d) Through the collaboration with Caritas Internationalis, capacity building activities have been carried out for Caritas staff and national branches, contributing to increase the dissemination and technical knowledge on the Right to Food Guidelines at country level.

35. **Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines):** the Guidelines were developed through a thorough consultative process involving governments, regional organizations, academia and CSOs. FAO continues to foster collaboration with CSOs ensuring an appropriate involvement of small-scale

fishers, fish workers and their communities in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at global, regional and national levels.

- a) FAO is partnering with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (GFCM) to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in the Mediterranean Region, including through the organization of the Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”, to be held on 7-10 March 2016 in Algeria. The Conference will focus on the main socio-economic and environmental challenges for the development of sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region.
- b) In collaboration with the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP), the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), two workshops have been organized to raise awareness and support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at decentralized levels, engaging governments, civil society organizations, researchers and relevant regional organization (South East Asia, 24-27 August 2015 in Indonesia and East Africa, 15-18 September 2015 in Ethiopia). With support from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project, ICSF also organized national multistakeholder consultations on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines in Myanmar and India.

*SO2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner*

36. In contributing to the achievement of SO2, partnerships and collaboration with CSOs provide mechanisms that address the following areas: (a) increasing the effectiveness of FAO field projects and programmes by building on civil society experience in poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture; (b) ensuring a holistic approach to sustainable natural resource management by facilitating inclusive governance processes that put smallholder interests at the centre of the discussion while addressing conflicts of interests and trade-offs; (c) providing evidence-based experience for improved decision-making processes related to planning and managing agricultural sectors and natural resources; (d) contributing to the elaboration of best practices and to the dissemination of capacity development tools and institutional knowledge related to sustainable natural resource management; (e) promoting a unified perspective and approach at country level, increasing effectiveness of action on the ground.

*Key partnerships and collaboration with CSOs contributing to SO2*

37. Agroecology for FSN: In line with the trend towards more sustainable food systems, agroecological practices, research and policies have seen exponential growth in the last decade. Within this context, FAO hosted an international, scientific symposium on Agroecology for FSN on 18-19 September 2014 which inter alia allowed CSOs to provide evidence-based knowledge and lessons learnt on the implementation of agroecological practices and make qualitative contributions to the discussions.

- a) As a follow up to the International Symposium, three regional meetings are being organized in 2015 to foster dialogue on agroecology, its benefits, challenges and opportunities. The focus is given to regional and national levels, taking into account respective priorities and related ongoing processes and initiatives. Further support has been provided in order to ensure proper CSO involvement in the regional discussions.
- b) FAO and La Via Campesina (LVC) are partnering to document and disseminate knowledge, experience and best practices on agroecology from LVC’s agroecology schools for farmers. A toolkit will collect case studies from diverse contexts and countries, to be applied in farmer field schools around the world, enhancing capacities of family farmers and food producers to contribute to more sustainable and food secure livelihoods. Other common objectives include increasing visibility of farmers’ knowledge related to sustainable agricultural production and the collection of best practices on seed conservation to strengthen resilience.

38. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): FAO organized two informal meetings in July 2015 with representatives of social movements and international NGOs respectively. These meetings enabled an improved understanding of what the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture entails and which mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that the CSA agenda is defined and pursued taking into account existing frameworks and processes.

39. Other ongoing processes within SO2 supporting effective CSO engagement include the World Forestry Congress, 7-11 September 2015, Durban, South Africa, the Governing Board of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture, 3-9 October 2015, Rome, and preparations for the International Symposium on Biotechnology, 15-17 February 2016- Rome.

*SO3: Reduce rural poverty*

40. Many of the rural poor are subsistence producers, family farmers or landless agricultural workers. They include fisherfolk, pastoralists, and forest-dependent peoples with limited access to productive means, making partnering with family farmers, social movements, cooperatives and producer organizations right at the centre of SO3 towards: (a) improving the design of social protection programmes that effectively reduce food insecurity among rural populations; (b) facilitating direct involvement of organizations with proximity to food insecure population groups and small-scale food producers in key food and agricultural dialogues led by FAO; (c) enhancing capacities of the rural poor and the most vulnerable to invest in their future and promoting a sustainable use of resources; (d) providing evidence-based experiences for the elaboration and dissemination of best practices and capacity development tools to generate and maximize synergies between social protection measures and rural development programmes; (e) promoting advocacy for the reduction of rural poverty by enabling rural people's access to markets and services, resources, information and communication.

*Key partnerships and collaboration with CSOs contributing to SO3*

41. La Via Campesina (LVC) on initiatives related to advocacy and communication for social change with a special focus on rural youth, as a follow up to the International Year of Family Farming 2014.

42. FAO and We Effect to strengthen rural organizations and institutions and facilitate the empowerment of the rural poor by supporting public institutions in the targeted countries in the formulation and implementation of adequate policies. This will allow small-scale forest and farmer producers' organizations to access land and markets and improve the livelihoods of their members. The collaboration involves eight countries for a period of three years: Bolivia, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Vietnam and Zambia.

43. FAO and AMARC (the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters), are partnering to advocate for community media as a driver for social change and development in rural areas, especially among family farmers. Main activities include: (a) joint organization of the Forum on Communication and Community Media for Sustainable Rural Development at AMARC's 11<sup>th</sup> Global Assembly in Ghana (August 2015); (b) capacity building and training on community media and family farming, including a national workshop in Tunisia (March 2015) and a regional workshop in Latin America and the Caribbean (April 2015).

44. The World Rural Forum (WRF) and the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) are one of the main contributors to the Family Farming Knowledge Platform, by providing evidence-based contributions of family farmers to food security and poverty eradication worldwide. The digital platform aims to become a "one-stop shop" for information, data and legislation (including public programmes, national and regional legislation, up-to-date statistics, case studies and academic research) on the sector that produces some 80 percent of the world's food.

*SO4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems*

45. By partnering with CSOs, FAO prioritizes inclusiveness by linking smallholder producers (including farmers, foresters, fish harvesters and fisher workers) with enterprises and supply chains for their effective and sustainable participation in rapidly changing global, regional and national markets.

46. When contributing to the achievement of SO4, partnerships and collaboration with the CSOs provide mechanisms which work towards the following objectives: (a) joint advocacy and awareness raising for the promotion of inclusive and efficient business models in support of more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems; (b) provision of evidence-based experience for the promotion of effective principles for responsible investment; (c) identification of synergies and opportunities for addressing the challenges on food loss and waste;

*Key partnerships and collaboration with CSOs contributing to SO4*

47. FAO is collaborating with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to help improve food security through enhanced coordination at country level. In several countries, staff of the FAO Save Food Initiative has created connections between national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies and local Food Banks or other organizations working on the topic of food waste and loss. Several national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies have partnered with FAO for the distribution of seeds and tools among vulnerable households during the main agricultural season.

48. The collaboration of FAO and Slow Food has been strengthened through the development of joint awareness raising, knowledge sharing and capacity building activities on topics related to the promotion of traditional and origin-linked products and green value chains as a way of increasing family farmers' access to profitable markets.

*SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*

49. To achieve SO5, FAO's work focuses on enhancing the resilience of livelihood systems, and thus the need to reduce risks and promote preparedness, in synergy with development and investment efforts. International and national NGOs and foundations have considerable stocks of human and financial capital, supplies, assets and capacity development expertise.

50. Partnerships and collaboration with CSOs provide mechanisms which work towards the following objectives: (a) joint mobilization and use of the wide human, physical and financial resources available, increasing the scale and focus of FAO's technical support; (b) enhanced coordination capacity of all stakeholders to improve accountability to affected populations; (c) capacity development to address and present risks and reduce vulnerabilities; (d) reach out to organizations at grassroots level, including large formal and informal social networks and platforms, in the implementation of resilience-building programmes and projects; (e) dissemination of knowledge and regular information, including on disaster preparedness through early warning and alert systems.

*Key partnerships and collaboration with CSOs contributing to SO5*

51. Welthungerhilfe e.V. (WHH) is an important partner for FAO in the field, aiming at increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis. Joint projects are being implemented as follows: (a) distribution of food, seeds and other inputs among 12,000 vulnerable households (Sudan, South Sudan and Syria); (b) improvement of food security and nutrition through soil conservation, reforestation of 250 ha and promotion of agro-forestry practices among five cooperatives (Haiti); increase of staple food production and all-year access to food among 14,000 households and rehabilitation of market infrastructure and rural roads (Madagascar); provision of rural extension services and trainings to 50,000 households, improving farm management under climate change conditions (Zimbabwe).

52. FAO is partnering with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), given its strong experience in risk management and resilience and a very large network of over 17 million volunteers worldwide operating at grassroots level. Common activities include strengthened advocacy for resilience, not only in times of emergency response but also for implementing prevention and impact mitigation measures which address root causes of risks and

disasters for the most vulnerable communities. This collaboration increases the opportunity to effectively address risks and crises affecting farmers, fishermen, pastoralists, and tree-dependent communities worldwide. Furthermore, about 3,000 IFRC volunteers have been trained through the dissemination of six FAO eLearning courses through IFRC networks, improving skills of staff and volunteers world-wide.

53. The collaboration with World Vision International (WVI) has been expanded in 2015, providing a framework to promote and strengthen resilience, particularly in connection to livelihoods and disaster risk reduction, combining short-term impact and systemic change for long-term sustainability. Through increased country level cooperation for distribution of emergency inputs, 8 projects are implemented jointly in 27 resilience focus countries. In Somalia and Zimbabwe WVI is a key partner in the implementation of large resilience-related programmes.

### **C. Guidance sought**

54. The Joint Meeting is invited to note the progress made in the implementation of FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and provide comments as deemed appropriate.