FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Twenty-ninth Session

Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 4-8 April 2016

Provisional Annotated Agenda

A: Senior Officers Meeting

4-6 April 2016

I. Introductory Items

1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur

2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

Please see Ministerial Session items from 3 to 7 on page 7.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

8) Public Private Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Growth

The Secretariat will present successful cases in which public and private actors have collaborated to transform agri-food systems, undertaking positive policy and regulatory reforms, coordinating public and private investments and stewarded effective mutual accountability mechanisms which have catalysed actions to benefit diverse stakeholders, including more vulnerable smallholders and other marginalized groups. It will examine specific cases in which specific actions have unleashed the tremendous economic potential of agri-business women and entrepreneurs.
Under this item, the Conference will discuss on the transformation of the agri-food system in Africa and its interrelated challenges to compete in rapidly evolving national and regional markets and to serve as a dynamic engine of inclusive growth, providing opportunities for livelihoods, entrepreneurship and employment for a broad cross-section of Africa’s population.

9) Trends and Issues in Food and Agriculture for Regional and National Action in the context of the SDGs

Under this item of the agenda, the following topics will be developed to provide in-depth information and recommendations will be brought up to be considered by the Regional Conference, FAO and countries:

- Commitments for transformation of food systems and inclusive growth in order to share prosperity;
- Trends of the demographic structure in the continent and consequences on youth employment;
- Migrations issues and gaps identified in offering socio-economic opportunities;
- Overall climate change's effects and impact;
- Continuing gaps in agricultural financing;
- Alignment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO’s strategic objectives and actions;
- Sustainable financing for agriculture in Africa.

10) Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The discussions will focus on the outcomes of the last session of CFS with special attention to specific focus areas for Africa.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

11) Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region

The Regional Conference will consider the results of FAO's work in the region, including how FAO Regional Initiatives have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2014-15, and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2016-17 and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021. The discussion will be informed by the Reviewed Strategic Framework 2010-19, results of FAO's work at the Outcome level (extract from Programme Implementation Report 2014-15), the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17 approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015, and a Regional Strategic Review encompassing the major regional trends, challenges and development objectives for food and agriculture, also taking account of; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; a synthesis of Country Programming Frameworks; and the plans and priorities of partners such as the regional economic organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector.

12) Decentralized Offices Network

On-going efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO’s country offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization’s effectiveness and efficiency at regional and country level.

IV. Other Matters

13) Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Africa

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is discussed and agreed as a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making
process of FAO, focusing on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets as a governing body.

14) Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

15) Date and Place of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

16) Any other matters

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Session.
Summary Report of Recommendations of FAO Regional Bodies

Regional bodies in forestry and wildlife, fisheries and agricultural statistics have regular consultations with documented recommendations that are summarized for the information of the Regional Conference and its consideration.

Reporting on the Recommendations of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)

Following the recommendations of the 28th Session of the ARC, the report shows the results achieved in Africa during the biennium 2014-2015 under the four regional priorities and the implementation of the recommendations of the 28th Session of the ARC.

Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for Food Security (ASTF)

The document informs on the activities and achievements of the Trust fund with reference to its objectives as well mechanisms of governance and operation. Lessons are also presented in view of sustainable financing of agriculture – sensu lato. ASTF underlying approach and mechanisms will be discussed together with other innovative ways in Africa with consideration of the engagements made by countries in Maputo and Malabo.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO’s Strategic Objectives (SOs): Expected Results in the Africa Region

Issues related to food and agriculture are comprehensively integrated among the 17 SDGs. FAO, which has provided technical support to UN Member States throughout the post-2015 process and in Africa, will continue to work with countries and partners in implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture are key to achieving the entire set of SDGs by 2030. Fourteen of the 17 new SDGs are related to FAO’s historic mission. The second goal - which is "to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" - must be urgently pursued in the Africa region as rapid progress on that front is the key to the other goals. The proposed role of FAO considering its SOs is discussed in order to determine linkages and requirements for food security in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Outcome of the 2015 Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2063 and in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The paper will present expectations and opportunities to be considered and how FAO is mainstreaming the resolutions and recommendations made throughout the year in the work of FAO in the region.

Climate Change and the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU) Sectors in the Sub-Saharan Africa

To be developed with consideration of what aspects should be streamlined within FAO such as adaptation, mitigation, climate change services giving special consideration to the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in 2015

If they so wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any other matters”. 

Information Documents

If they so wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any other matters”.

1
The outcomes of the COP 21 and recommendations are presented and propositions made on how to streamline in Africa at regional and country level.

**Fourteenth World Forestry Congress**

The outcomes of the XIV World Forestry Congress and recommendations are presented and propositions made on how to streamline in Africa at regional and country level.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Exchange of African Expertise: Good Practices and Prospects at Country Level in Africa**

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions - knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology and resources - between and among countries in the global South. FAO plays an important role in fostering knowledge management and networks, connecting South-South solution providers with seekers (supply and demand), scaling up knowledge-sharing and enhancing two-way learning among a wide range of southern actors. This paper discusses how SSC can contribute to revitalizing agri-businesses, food and agricultural systems in Africa. Examples of good practices in the region for capacitating countries to take advantage of SSC and exchange of African expertise will also be discussed, as well as sustainable networking and complementarities in the Africa region in order to meet countries needs and priorities.

**Successes in Nuclear Applications: African VetLab Network and Sterile Insect Technique**

The unique FAO/IAEA partnership is contributing to FAO’s strategic objectives through technical outputs, among which selected ones will be presented to inform member countries on their impact and how the collaboration contributes to the results directly in the field and improves efficiency and impact for sustainable livestock production. This document will offer a field-level view from member countries on what the Joint FAO/IAEA Division’s expertise, technical support and technology transfer in the areas of animal production and health, control of major insect pest in food and agriculture, including small-scale and often resource-poor farming communities.

**Development of an Action Programme to Address Food and Nutrition Challenges in SIDS**

The main characteristics of the current status of food and agriculture on small islands such as Cabo Verde, Comoros, Sao-Tomé, Madagascar, Mauritius, including Maldives for geographical consistency with regard to the Indian Ocean will be developed. In addition, the status of FAO’s specific interventions in SIDS is reviewed with a focus on its strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threat in order to recommend better coordination set-up and mechanisms for better results.

**Second International Conference on Nutrition Follow-up**

This document will be distributed at Regional Conferences. Besides providing background information on the ICN2 proceedings and outcomes, the document outlines follow-up action taken since ICN2, including efforts aimed at: (i) mainstreaming nutrition within the Strategic Framework of FAO; (ii) strengthening FAO’s capacities on nutrition and food systems; (iii) reporting on ICN2 follow-up activities to FAO’s Governing Bodies; (iv) ensuring UN General Assembly support of the ICN2 outcomes; and (v) improving inter-agency coordination and collaboration on nutrition.
Note on Side Event(s) and Subregional Consultations

The document provides a brief summary of issues to be discussed during the side events and the subregional consultations. The subregional consultations will focus on the prioritization of needs of countries and subregions for guidance on the statements to be introduced to the Ministerial Session by the subregional representatives.

Outcomes of the Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Sub-Saharan Africa

Seeking to gain better understanding of the role that agroecology can play in achieving an end to hunger and malnutrition, FAO organized the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition in September 2014 in Rome, Italy. Following the recommendations of the Symposium, a Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Sub-Saharan Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal on 5-6 November 2015. The meeting aimed to assess the current state of agroecological practices in Africa, identify constraints, opportunities and the expectations of stakeholders; and to contribute to the dynamics of agroecological development through experience sharing, and by highlighting and strengthening existing levers.

Note on side event on fertilizers as follow-up to the 2006 Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for an African Green Revolution.
B - Ministerial Session
7–8 April 2016

3) Statement by the Director-General

4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

The statement of the Chairperson of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa will provide a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 6-13 June 2015) and the 152nd Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 15 June 2015) on matters related to the Africa region.

6) Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions, reporting on the activities undertaken in 2014-2015.

7) Statements on Prioritization of Needs of Countries and Subregions by the Subregional Group Representatives

Statements by the subregional group representatives summarizing results from the subregional consultations held on Wednesday 6 April 2016.

Review and Endorsement of the Draft Report of the Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and approved by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. The discussion will cover: i) Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues; ii) Programme and Budget Matters; iii) Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

Ministerial Roundtable “Strengthening national and regional capacities to effectively implement commitments and increase investments made at national and continental level for the eradication of hunger and the transformation of food systems in Africa for an inclusive growth and shared prosperity”

In June 2014, Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Declaration made seven specific commitments, including ending hunger in Africa by 2025 within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework. The SDGs for 2016-2030 adopted by the UN Summit in September 2015 also include a commitment on ending hunger. Based on the lessons learned from the 10 years of CAADP implementation and 15 of MDG1 implementation as well as the status of the 10 percent commitment in Malabo, the ministerial roundtable would discuss how the countries could improve their capacities for coordinating and implementing global and continental commitments on ending hunger and the transformation of food systems in Africa for an inclusive growth and shared prosperity. The Regional Conference could also discuss means of increasing solidarity between countries, enhancing south-south cooperation and also boost the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund.

2 MDG: Millennium Development Goal