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Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Executive Summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other *fora* of importance for FAO's mandate. Presentations will be made on the following topics at the 151st Session of Council:

- 1) Global *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme
- 2) Outcome of the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Lima, 1-12 December 2014)
- 3) Outcome of the 3rd Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Bonn, 12-17 January 2015)
- 4) Outcome of the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (New York, 3-6 March 2015)
- 5) XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, 7-11 September 2015)
- 6) 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (October 2016)
- 7) Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 151st Session of the Council for information only.



I. Global *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) Control and Eradication Programme

1. FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) have taken the lead in developing a Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of the *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) in response to a call from Members to address the continuing devastating socio-economic impact of PPR in over 70 countries in Africa, the Near East and Asia, as well as the fear of further significant negative impacts due to its rate of spread in many countries over the last 15 years. The control and eradication of PPR will significantly contribute to the enhancement of food and nutrition security, the improvement of livelihoods of poor farming communities and will increase resilience of farmers to repeated losses. With adequate financial support and political will, eradication can be accomplished by 2030.

2. The successful global eradication of rinderpest in cattle and the lessons learned from this experience have raised confidence and expectations that another high impact disease such as PPR can be eradicated. Building on the experience of rinderpest eradication, a phased and progressive approach to PPR control and eradication has been developed by FAO and the OIE, which also offers an important opportunity to achieve significant progress in the control of other high impact infectious diseases. It is estimated that the successful control and eradication of PPR through the implementation of the Global Strategy will cost USD 4.33 billion and will result in savings from annual economic losses of between USD1.45 to 2.1 billion and additional savings of USD 270 million dedicated to PPR vaccination.

3. The FAO/OIE Programme for the Control and Eradication of PPR was endorsed by the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (October 2014) and subsequently by the 150th Session of the Council (December 2014). The Programme's Secretariat will be located at FAO headquarters thereby facilitating the Organization's coordination role: coherence in regional components, technical and advisory services, development and review of the research agenda, and interface with other agencies and funding partners. The combined efforts of FAO and the OIE will *inter alia* improve small ruminant health, strengthen veterinary systems and extension services, food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods and promote gender empowerment.

II. Outcome of the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Lima, 1-12 December 2014)

4. The 20th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC was held in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014. FAO participated as an observer and provided support to Parties by advocating the need to achieve food security for all by making agriculture, fisheries and forestry more productive, sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change, in-line with the Strategic Objectives.

5. Article 2 of the UNFCCC states the need to ensure that food production is not threatened as efforts are made to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. In this regard, FAO has played a substantial role in the preparatory work leading towards the publication of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released in September 2014. Three working group reports benefitted from FAO inputs, both through lead and contributing authors. In addition, FAO is also contributing with technical submissions to the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

6. During COP 20 Progress was made in two main areas:

- a) *Advancement on action implementation:* Steps were made in Lima to emphasize and elevate actions on adaptation through the recognition of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) as important tools in delivering resilience, and a new NAP Global Network, as well as the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, were launched. Discussions took place on how the Green Climate Fund (GCF) can support countries with their NAPs and pledges

were made by both developed and developing countries which contributed towards surpassing the initial USD10 billion funding target for the GCF. The Lima Work Programme on Gender was also launched to advance gender balance and to promote gender sensitivity in the development and implementation of climate policy.

- b) *Progress in the negotiating text:* Countries elaborated the elements of the new agreement, scheduled to be reached during the COP21 in Paris, France 30 November to 11 December 2015). Discussions were mainly focused on the ground rules on how countries can submit contributions, through the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), which will form the foundation of the new agreement coming into effect in 2020. Countries were invited to make their commitments during the first quarter of 2015 and in particular during the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) of the UNFCCC, which was held from 8 to 13 February 2015 in Geneva.

III. Outcome of the 3rd Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (Bonn, 12-17 January 2015)

7. The 3rd Session of the Plenary of IPBES was held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 17 January 2015. Through Decision IPBES-3/4 the Plenary revised the work program for the period 2014-2018, which also involved the preparation of thematic assessments: the first one of which will be “Pollination and Pollinators Associated with Food Production”, with FAO’s involvement, due to the Organization’s high global profile and recognition of its expertise and networks with regard to pollination as an ecosystem service for food production. Specifically, following an invitation from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in line with the CBD COP Decision V/5, FAO has since been facilitating and coordinating the International Pollinators Initiative. The Plenary also noted progress made in the ongoing assessments of pollination and pollinators associated with food production.

8. At the session, FAO formally offered to host the third and last authors’ meeting in Rome from 27 to 31 July 2015. This meeting will be an opportunity for FAO to re-confirm itself internationally as a lead organization in the field of ecosystem services and biodiversity for food production: both through its role as partner within the IPBES process, as well as by raising the profile of its work within the context of Strategic Objective 2 “Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner” and in particular under the Major Area of Work on Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity.

9. The Plenary also agreed to undertake a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration, and outlined in the scoping document that collaboration should be developed with the Global Soil Partnership and its International Technical Panel on Soils, which is expected to produce a first report on the state of the world’s soil resources by 5 December 2015. Finally, the Plenary also agreed to initiate a scoping for a thematic assessment of invasive alien species, for consideration by the Plenary at its fourth session.

IV. Outcome of the 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (New York, 3-6 March 2015)

10. The 46th Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) was convened in New York from 3 to 6 March 2015 and discussed *inter alia* the development of an Indicator Framework for the post-2015 Development Agenda.

11. The UNSC is the apex entity of the global statistical system, bringing together the Chief Statisticians of Member States and international organizations and is the highest decision making body for international statistical activities, especially with regard to the endorsement of statistical standards and their implementation at the national and international level. The 46th Session of the UNSC was preceded by the First Meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) indicators, held in New York from 25 to 26 February 2015, which laid the groundwork for selection of the organizations that would be responsible for monitoring each indicator. FAO will play an important role in the SDG indicator framework, as one of the agencies responsible for monitoring Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and Goal 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss).

V. XIV World Forestry Congress (Durban, 7-11 September 2015)

12. The XIV World Forestry Congress (WFC), to be held from 7 to 11 September 2015 in Durban, South Africa, is a major opportunity for the world's foresters, forest supporters and inter-sectoral partners to gather together to share expertise and experiences, and project a vision of the future role of forests in global sustainable development. This XIV WFC will be the first convened in Africa, and the Government of South Africa and FAO are working closely to ensure broad participation by the forest, agricultural, livestock, energy and water sectors, the public sector, civil society, research and academic institutions, and especially women, the youth and the private sector.

13. Through the theme "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future", the XIV WFC aims to increase the contribution of forests to alleviating poverty by providing a broad range of goods and services, and at the same time protecting and enhancing the resource base, in the context of a changing climate. Six subthemes will focus on: socio-economic development and food security; building resilience, integrating land uses, encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade, monitoring for better decision-making, and improving governance. The Congress will also highlight the contribution of world forestry to the implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda.

14. The Congress outcome will be submitted to the FAO Council and to the 40th Session of FAO Conference in June 2017 for endorsement, as well as presented widely to Members, stakeholders and relevant international fora, such as the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 21 (COP 21) in Paris, France (30 November to 11 December 2015), to maximize the impact of the Congress.

VI. 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (October 2016)

15. Urbanization is one of the major factors influencing local and global reality. By 2050, the world's urban population is forecast to be 70 percent of the total population. Besides a new spatial configuration, urbanization brings fundamental changes in the socio-economic environment, including in the prospects for agriculture and food and nutrition security. In mid-October 2016, the 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will take place in Quito, Ecuador, and will be the first global conference following the adoption of the new SDGs. In preparation for Habitat III, the Preparatory Committee 1 was held in September 2014 in New York; Preparatory Committee 2 will take place in from 14 to 16 April 2015 in Nairobi, and Preparatory Committee 3 is scheduled to take place in July 2016 in Indonesia.

16. FAO, in collaboration with WFP, IFAD, UN-Habitat and many other institutions, including civil society organizations, will aim to draw attention to the importance of agriculture, food and nutrition in the New Urban Agenda which will be agreed upon at Habitat III, and provide concrete means of implementation for the SDGs through experience and expertise gathered within the collaboration. FAO has been working on urban-related areas since the 1980s, and was mandated by the 15th Session of COAG (1999) to address issues surrounding urban and peri-urban agriculture and related food and nutrition security. Since then, the work has evolved to mainstream urban-rural linkages across the FAO Strategic Objectives. Local food governance, access to food, land tenure/natural resources and ecosystem management (including waste management), climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for resilience, are areas where countries requested FAO's technical expertise.

VII. Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)

17. Further to the request by the 148th Session of the Council (December 2013) on the need for effective collaboration on social protection with Members and partners, including other UN agencies¹, FAO is participating in the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), a coordination mechanism that aims to organize the efforts of the international development community better at the global and country levels on social protection initiatives. Participants represent approximately 30 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as international financial institutions and bilateral development agencies, social partners and international non-governmental organizations, some of which are invited as observers.

18. The Board's establishment in July 2012 responds to a request from the G20 that called upon international organizations that provide social protection financing and technical advisory services to developing countries to improve coordination of their efforts. The Board's Secretariat rotates between the two co-chairing organizations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, and is based in the ILO Office for the United Nations in New York. SPIAC-B builds upon the work of the UN Chief Executives Board Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I), and provides a broad and holistic approach to coordination and information sharing, including a focus on both expanding and deepening social protection coverage. Overall, the Board focuses on the four key areas of promotion, policy coherence, coordination and knowledge sharing.

19. In this context, FAO not only participates in the biannual SPIAC-B meetings but continuously contributes to the work on Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools, which are being developed at the request of the SPIAC-B. In order to move towards a more standardized approach for the definition and assessment of countries' social protection systems and the identification of potential social protection policy options and trends, FAO is currently collaborating in technical working groups to develop two assessment tools, the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) and the National Dialogue and Policy Tool (NDPT). FAO is closely coordinating its engagement with WFP, the only other Rome-based agency on the SPIAC-B, through inter alia shared inputs and the identification of focal points for different working groups in order to strengthen recognition of food security as part of the international social protection agenda under the SPIAC-B and ISPA tool development. Based on its involvement in the SPIAC-B and ISPA tool development, FAO has also developed a "Joint Programme of Work on Fostering Social Protection in Agriculture and Rural Areas" with ILO in order to extend the Social Protection Floor provisions to rural areas, guided by the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation (no. 202, 2012).

¹ CL 148/REP/para16