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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الاعذية والزراعة
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 7-11 May 2018

Provisional Annotated Agenda

SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

7-9 May 2018

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1) Appointment of the Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Refer to page 4 for items 3-7)

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

- 8) **Agroecology: Adapting to Climate Change in Semi-arid Areas for a Sustainable Agricultural Development**

Agroecology promotes the application of ecological concepts and principles to optimize interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system. It incorporates the fundamentals of 'sustainable food and agriculture'.

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Agroecology is instrumental in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its key instruments are: (i) diversification of agricultural systems and landscapes; (ii) building resilience to climate change; (iii) increasing soil health and fertility; (iv) optimizing maintenance and use of biodiversity in agricultural systems.

9) Agricultural Transformation in the Near East and North Africa Region and the Challenge of Youth Employment and Migration

During the last decade, the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region has been exposed to several social, economic and political transformations. Agriculture has been impacted by these changes but has also played a role in shaping them. Transitions between sectoral economies, the interactions between on-farm and off-farm activities, the further development of the entire food-value chain and the impact of protracted crisis in a few countries of the region have provided a tumult of migration and a strong concern for youth employment.

10) One Health: Addressing Transboundary Plant, Animal and Fish Pests and Diseases: A Case for Regional Cooperation

The number of transboundary plant, animal and fish pests and diseases has been increasing beyond any forecast. The impact of climate variability and change, through its extreme events, has favoured the spread of known pests and diseases as well as the outbreaks of new ones. The extent, magnitude and speed of expansion of these pests and diseases go much beyond the control and protection capacity of individual countries. This item will highlight how these very peculiar situations are setting the conditions and providing an opportunity for regional cooperation and for the mobilization of financial resources to address effectively and efficiently the required responses.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

11) Results and Priorities for FAO in the Near East and North Africa Region

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2016-2017 and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2018-2019 and beyond.

The discussion will be informed by the results of FAO's work in the region, the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 approved by the FAO Conference in July 2017; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions; 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

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

The paper will also refer to the 40th Anniversary of FAO country Representations (2017-2019), for which commemorative activities are being undertaken to highlight the importance of FAO's field programme and long-term presence through country offices across the region.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

13) Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for the Near East

A Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2018–2021 has been developed for consideration by Members. It has been adopted and endorsed by Governing Bodies during the 157th Session of the FAO Council and adopted as a Resolution by Members during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017, in Rome. It is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and builds on the ongoing efforts to translate into action the vision of a food secure and sustainable world. The FAO Regional Conferences in 2016 considered achievements of the three current Regional Initiatives and identified priority areas to be considered for the Regional Initiatives in the next biennium. In the NENA region, the three Regional Initiatives will be maintained, namely (i) Water Scarcity Initiative; (ii) Small Scale Family Farming; and (iii) Food Security and Nutrition Resilience.

14) Any Other Matters

Information Notes¹

- **Summary of the Progress made in the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

This information note provides a summary of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East by reporting on activities and actions undertaken during 2016–2017.

- **Summary Report of Recommendations of FAO Regional Bodies and Major Meetings in the Near East**

This item presents the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions and other relevant regional meetings in the Near East with regard to: (i) policy and regulatory matters and (ii) programme and budget matters. This includes regional fora such as the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) and the Commissions for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central and Western Regions (CRC and CLCPRO). This also includes summaries of the outcomes of high-level meetings.

- **FAO Support to Countries for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires better coordinated support across the UN system and better alignment of individual entities' support to the SDGs. As outlined in the Mid-term Review (MTR) for the period 2018–2021, trends, challenges and developments identified in the reviewed Strategic Framework provide the basis to focus FAO's Strategic Objective results framework and programmes on the commitments made by countries and international community, in particular the overarching SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes a new global charter for international development cooperation and governance, and defines the context in which FAO and its member countries will be working toward reaching the SDGs and achieving country specific targets.

¹ If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under "Any Other Matters".

- **Strengthening Gender Equality in Agriculture and Rural Development in the Near East and North Africa Region**

Gender equality is central to achieving sustainable development and a decent standard of living for all. This is reflected in global commitments to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs where gender and rural development have a strong and cross-cutting presence. Agriculture and rural development relies squarely on the participation of both women and men in food production, resource management, balancing paid work and family life, and in the design, building and maintenance of infrastructure. Many countries of the region have been impacted by political instability and protracted conflicts. This has constrained the provision of basic services such as education and health care and threatened livelihoods, especially in rural communities. Women in these situations are often more disadvantaged than men and in many cases are forced to shoulder additional income generating responsibilities in addition to domestic chores.

- **Follow-up on the International Scientific Consultation and High-Level Meeting on Red Palm Weevil Management**

A new action plan to stop the spread of Red Palm Weevil has been endorsed at a high-level meeting at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, in May 2017. The new framework aims to provide technical assistance and guidance for improving national control programmes as well as a platform for interregional cooperation and coordination. It was produced by an international team of Red Palm Weevil experts from various countries and organizations with the support of FAO, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and the Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO).

V. MINISTERIAL MEETING

10–11 May 2018

3) Statement by the Director-General

4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

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

7) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

15) Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs: Statements by Heads of Delegations

16) Date and Place of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

17) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference