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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL

Hundred and Sixty-first Session

Rome, 8-12 April 2019

Report of the 126th Session of the Programme Committee (Rome, 18–22 March 2019)

Executive Summary

The Programme Committee examined a number of matters relating to programme planning and evaluation, in particular with regards to:

- a) Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (*reviewed*) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 (paragraphs 4-5)
- b) Mid-term Review Synthesis Report - 2018 (paragraph 6)
- c) Evaluation of the strategy and vision for FAO's work on nutrition (paragraph 7)
- d) Evaluation of FAO's work on gender (paragraph 8)
- e) Synthesis of findings and lessons learnt from the Strategic Objective evaluations (paragraph 9)
- f) Follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO3) (paragraph 10)
- g) Progress report on the development of a FAO Strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors (paragraphs 11-12)
- h) COAG Draft Resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology (paragraphs 13-15)
- i) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) (paragraphs 16-21)
- j) Tentative Agenda for the 127th session of the Programme Committee (paragraphs 22-23)
- k) Progress in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Office of Evaluation (paragraph 24)
- l) Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations (paragraph 25)

The Committee brings its findings and recommendations on these matters to the attention of the Council.

Suggested action by the Council

The Council is requested to endorse the findings of the Programme Committee, as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

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

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REPORT OF THE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Rome, 18-22 March 2019

Introduction

1. The Committee submitted to the Council the following report of its Hundred and Twenty-sixth session.
2. In addition to the Chairperson, His Excellency Johannes Petrus Hoogeveen (Netherlands), the following representatives of Members were present:

H.E. María Cristina Boldorini (Argentina)	Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairudin Mohd Nor (Malaysia)
Ms Jennifer Fellows (Canada)	Mr Donald G. Syme (New Zealand)
Mr Marc Mankoussou (Congo)	Ms Claudia Elizabeth Guevara de la Jara (Peru)
H.E. Mohammad Hossein Emadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)	H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland)
Mr Toru Hisazome (Japan)	H.E. Marie-Therese Sarch (United Kingdom)
Mr Salah Yousef Ahmed Al-Tarawneh (Jordan) ¹	

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable²

3. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda with the addition of an item for discussion on antimicrobial resistance, including the feasibility of a “FAO draft Conference Resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance”; and the Provisional Timetable accordingly.

Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (*reviewed*) and Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21³

4. The Committee:
 - a) noted that the trends, challenges and developments articulated in the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 are the basis for FAO’s Strategic Objective results framework and programmes, and welcomed their alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - b) took note of the substance given in the re-balancing of qualitative and quantitative activities concerning value chains;
 - c) stressed the need for considering all approaches regarding sustainable agriculture and food systems in the preparation of the programme of work of the Organization;
 - d) emphasised the need to take into account priorities for all countries, including middle-income, and upper-middle income countries;
 - e) noted the need to use agreed terminology, especially technical, in preparation of programmatic documents; thus the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) should be based on accepted terminology, and have a sound scientific basis, and should include clear references to reliable sources;

¹ Mr Salah Yousif Ahmad Al-Tarawneh has been designated to replace Mr Fiesal Rasheed Salamh Al Argan as representative of Jordan for the 126th Session of the Programme Committee

² PC 126/1; PC 126/INF/1

³ C 2019/3; C 2019/3-WA11

- f) recommended strengthening and further development of indicators and targets for the Outputs of each Strategic Objectives, especially in the field of AMR indicator(s), gender indicators for all Strategic Objectives, and project performance management indicators; and requested that Strategic Objective Output indicators and targets for these are considered in the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21 in November 2019;
- g) welcomed the allocation for resources for the new Resident Coordinator system and highlighted the importance of incorporating the reporting requirements of the new UNDS Funding Compact.
5. The Committee:
- a) welcomed the proposal of resource reallocations within a flat nominal budget level to meet cost increases and priorities as realistic, especially in view of prevailing global macro-economic conditions;
- b) welcomed the maintenance of the share of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) at 14 percent of the net budgetary appropriation, and report on the achievements of the TCP to improve its visibility, efficiency and degree of implementation, including through an impact evaluation;
- c) noted the priorities, areas of de-emphasis and resource allocations for the Strategic Objectives and Objective 6, including the additional resources for innovative and sustainable agriculture approaches and for combating all forms of malnutrition and promoting nutrition-sensitive, sustainable food systems;
- d) noted that guidance received from the FAO Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Programme Committee and Council concerning priority areas of work had been included in the PWB proposal, but further noted that, amongst others, the guidance for the need for sustainable funding for work on International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and WHO/FAO's food safety scientific advice programme, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity had not been reflected;
- e) highlighted the importance of sustainable funding for FAO's work on scientific advice and standard setting and for biodiversity, and recommended additional resources for IPPC and for WHO/FAO's food safety scientific advice programme with a minimum of USD 2 million as well as for mainstreaming biodiversity with a minimum of USD 2 million, through efficiencies and cost savings, or, if necessary, from the areas of technical de-emphasis to the extent feasible.

Mid-term Review Synthesis Report - 2018⁴

6. The Committee welcomed the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report 2018, and:
- a) welcomed the good progress and results achieved in implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19, noting that delivery in the biennium was on track, noting the progress in the delivery rate of resources under all sources of funds;
- b) noted that the majority of the targets (72 percent) were planned for 2019 and encouraged the Organization to continue to closely follow progress and increase efforts in areas as necessary;
- c) highlighted the importance of the report as an accountability tool and as a model for illustrating lessons learned;
- d) noted the reversal of progress to achieve SDG 2, and stressed that more concerted action is needed by FAO, member countries and other stakeholders to address the increasing number of hungry people;

⁴ PC 126/2-FC 175/7

- e) agreed on the need to find a balance between setting ambitious yet realistic Output targets to measure and monitor the progress made toward planned results;
- f) welcomed the achievements being on track for delivering technical quality and services, including for the cross-cutting themes contributing to the Strategic Objectives.

Evaluation of the strategy and vision for FAO's work on nutrition⁵

7. The Committee appreciated the Evaluation of the strategy and vision for FAO's work on nutrition, and welcomed the recommendations. Specifically, the Committee:

- a) welcomed that management accepted all seven recommendations, and noted that some actions were already underway for their implementation;
- b) looked forward to reviewing an updated and upgraded Nutrition Strategy, with an expanded scope to look at nutrition from the perspective of sustainable agriculture and food systems and healthy diets, and addressing all forms of malnutrition;
- c) encouraged to give due attention to linking strategy development and implementation by using corporate planning, implementation and monitoring mechanisms;
- d) stressed the importance of contextualization in examining food systems and dietary trends, and in supporting bottom-up approaches based on evidence and sound policy frameworks;
- e) highlighted the need to include FAO's work on nutrition in corporate resource mobilization efforts; and to building capacities by strengthening networks of nutrition focal points across the Organization giving due attention to decentralized offices' capacities;
- f) stressed the importance of collaboration among Rome-based Agencies, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN), and within the UN system, and the need for strengthening partnerships with relevant actors at global, regional and country level, and encouraged the development of common approaches and concepts;
- g) encouraged dissemination of FAO's knowledge products with use of language accessible for a broader public;
- h) looked forward to reviewing progress with the updated Strategy in November 2019 and to the follow-up report to this evaluation at its Spring 2021 session.

Evaluation of FAO's work on gender⁶

8. The Committee welcomed this evaluation and Management Response, and agreed with the recommendations and conclusions. Specifically, the Committee:

- a) noted the relevance and validity of FAO's Policy on Gender Equality as an overarching framework to guide the gender work of the Organization;
- b) underlined the need to update FAO's Policy on Gender Equality and recommended to have a draft presentation of the updated Policy available not later than December 2019;
- c) stressed the importance of regular monitoring and reporting, starting with a progress report on the main features of the updated Policy on Gender Equality to be submitted to the next session of Programme Committee in November 2019, and progress on an annual basis thereafter;
- d) supported the recommendation to develop an Action Plan by November 2020 at the latest, with medium-term gender outputs/targets, and welcomed management confirmation that FAO's minimum standards on gender equality would be updated in line with the

⁵ PC 126/3; PC 126/3 Sup.1

⁶ PC 126/4; PC 126/4 Sup.1

UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0), as suggested in the Evaluation report;

- e) highlighted the need to enhance partnerships, including through the use of South-South Cooperation, with key actors working on addressing gender issues in agriculture, especially with Rome-based Agencies, including exchange of good practices and lessons learned on gender policies;
- f) stressed the need to further strengthen the capacity of technical officers to mainstream gender in their work as a crucial factor in the implementation of the Gender Strategy and the importance of mainstreaming gender in all Strategic Objectives;
- g) stressed the importance of national ownership of the gender policies, taking into account all dimensions needed for an appropriate national contextualization of gender policies;
- h) stressed the need to strengthen capacity building, dissemination of knowledge and information at national and local levels;
- i) emphasised the importance of strengthening indicators and targets on gender in all Strategic Objectives;
- j) recommended in the next evaluation reports the inclusion of a rating of the evaluation.

Synthesis of findings and lessons learnt from the Strategic Objective evaluations⁷

9. The Committee appreciated the Synthesis, considering the information and analyses therein useful for the next planning phase, concurred with its findings and suggestions, and welcomed the Management Observations. Specifically, the Committee:

- a) appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat in transforming the Organization geared towards addressing Strategic Objectives agreed by the Members, notwithstanding challenges therein;
- b) noted that many of the challenges identified in the Synthesis may not be the direct results of the move to strategic planning, but nevertheless need to be overcome, and in this regard, looked forward to some concrete suggestions in the upcoming evaluation of the Strategic Results Framework on such aspects as:
 - i. quality of the results framework
 - ii. adequacy of the matrix management structure
 - iii. appropriateness of planning, monitoring and reporting systems
 - iv. appropriateness of indicators to capture development effectiveness
 - v. appropriateness of outcome assessment methodology
 - vi. effectiveness of institutional, administrative and operational procedures
- c) underscored the importance of strengthening evidence-based normative work of the Organization, as well as strengthening the capacities at the regional level, which also provides the basis for the Organization's technical support to the countries;
- d) concurred with the Synthesis on the need to strengthen FAO's catalytic role in increasing investment in sustainable food and agriculture and the suggestion to use investment leverage as an important indicator of its impact, necessitating an increase in FAO's resource mobilization, from extrabudgetary resources, and consider alternative financing instruments, such as blended finance and impact investments, in addition to its traditional finance partners;

⁷ PC 126/5; PC 126/5 Sup.1

- e) stressed the need to strengthen the strategic synergies and partnerships, especially with Rome-based Agencies and other UN system organization, as well as with the private sector;
- f) looked forward to discussions on the future direction of the Organization in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Repositioning of the United Nations Development System.

Follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty (SO3)⁸

10. The Committee welcomed this follow-up report to the evaluation of FAO's contribution to reduction in rural poverty, and agreed with its conclusions. Specifically, the Committee:

- a) noted the relevance of FAO's work on rural poverty reduction and its overarching goal, and as a Strategic Objective of the Organization;
- b) welcomed the progress reported under the six recommendations;
- c) stressed the importance of considering the multidimensional nature of rural poverty, in terms of measurement, policies approaches and institutional collaboration;
- d) noted with concern that rural poverty is highly impacted by conflicts and several countries are confronted with many constraints by these conflicts and distress migration because of conflicts;
- e) stressed the importance of capacity building within the Organization on poverty-related areas of work, and to continue coordinating these efforts in an integrated manner within the broader capacity development activities of the Organization;
- f) recognized the importance of continuing to analyse and provide guidance and technical support on the determinants of rural poverty and the effectiveness of policy and programmatic responses, considering the complex contexts of conflict, migration, climate change and gender inequality;
- g) recognized the importance of resource mobilization, while moving towards building financing development models at country level;
- h) noted the current effort to review FAO's work on extreme poverty and its contribution to the achievement of SDG target 1.1;
- i) stressed the importance of building strong strategic coordination and partnerships, particularly on rural development governance and filling important gaps with other UN agencies based on FAO's comparative advantage, especially on its knowledge of dynamics of agricultural and rural development as key elements for poverty reduction;
- j) recognized that this area of work should be a focus of the Repositioning of the UN Development System, where each entity within the system would contribute to supporting countries in achieving the SDGs, particularly as relate to the interconnectedness of SDGs 1 and 2;
- k) requested to submit to the next session of the Programme Committee a report on the progress of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) arrangements and country programme framework (CPF) formulation in the context of the Repositioning of the UN Development System, mainstreaming FAO's contribution to rural poverty reduction as one of the entry points, including the important role of the Resident Coordinator.

⁸ PC 126/6

Progress report on the development of a FAO Strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors⁹

11. The Committee:
- a) noted the progress on the development of the strategy on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors;
 - b) highlighted that biodiversity being the basis for all agricultural sectors, is key to achieving food security and nutrition within the context of the SDGs;
 - c) stressed the need, within the mandate of FAO, to strengthen the integration in a structured and coherent manner of actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity across FAO's programmes, policies and instruments, as well as impact of climate change on biodiversity. The Strategy should also include the importance of access and benefits sharing arising from the use of genetic resources;
 - d) noted that the Strategy should take into account FAO's existing governance framework for biodiversity, including the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and focus strictly on aspects falling under FAO's mandate on food and agriculture;
 - e) stressed that further development of the Strategy should be in line with international frameworks, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol,¹⁰ the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC);
 - f) noted the presented elements: a) **Sustainable use of biodiversity** through ecosystem approaches; b) **Conserve**, enhance and restore biodiversity; c) **Promote sustainable agriculture and food systems** that integrate biodiversity in **value chains**; d) Enhance the contribution of biodiversity, and associated **indigenous and local knowledge**, to food security and nutrition, ending poverty, and safeguarding resilient livelihoods as a basis for further development of the strategy;
 - g) stressed the need to clarify the definitions and terminology, such as landscape and ecosystem approaches;
 - h) encouraged the link with other FAO's policies, programmes and activities where FAO has a comparative advantage and global role, e.g. the pollinator initiative, the Global Soil Partnership, and the Global Plans of Action for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS);
 - i) recommended the further development of the Strategy in consultation with other relevant international organizations, such as CBD, and other relevant stakeholders.
12. The Committee, taking into account the state of progress of the Strategy:
- a) stressed the need for further consultation on the revised Draft Strategy, which will be sent through the FAO Members Gateway before the 1st of April 2019 for inputs from FAO Members, and will be provided as *Web Annex 2* to this Report;¹¹
 - b) regarding the timing and process for endorsement of the Strategy, recommended the Council to reconsider the mandate provided at its 160th session (3-7 December 2018);¹²
 - c) recommended the Council to request the Conference to mandate the Council to endorse the Strategy before 2020.

⁹ PC 126/7

¹⁰ Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

¹¹ CL 161/3-WA2

¹² CL 160/REP paragraph 6.o)

COAG Draft Resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology¹³

13. The Committee appreciated the work done by the COAG Bureau in developing a *Draft Resolution on the further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology*.
14. The Committee, during the discussion on the Draft Resolution, noted that efforts by FAO Members and management to combat antimicrobial resistance are also an important component of a transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems.
15. The Committee recommended the Council to submit the text of the Draft Resolution as provided in *Annex 1* to its Report, for its submission to the FAO Conference.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

16. The Committee recognized the importance of addressing the growing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcomed the continued work of FAO in addressing AMR in agriculture, within the context of the One Health approach, taking into account work being done in other international fora.
17. The Committee recognized that efforts by FAO Members and management to combat antimicrobial resistance were also an important component for the transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems and stressed the importance of its continuation.
18. The Committee stressed the need for further support, through extrabudgetary resources, for the Tripartite collaboration between FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for combatting antimicrobial resistance in the spirit of the 'One Health' approach and to maximize synergies with OIE in animal health.
19. The Committee noted the draft World Health Organization Executive Board draft resolution on Antimicrobial Resistance (EB144/CONF.3/ Rev.1 dated 1 February 2019).
20. The Committee recommended the Council to explore the need and feasibility of a Conference Resolution in this regard.
21. The Committee requested a progress review on AMR for discussion at its informal meeting prior to the formal session.

Tentative Agenda for the 127th session of the Programme Committee¹⁴

22. The Committee reviewed arrangements for its 127th session, and agreed the following Agenda items:
 - a) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable*
 - b) *Election of the Vice-Chairperson for the term July 2019 to June 2021*
 - c) *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-21*
 - d) *Evaluation of FAO's work in statistics, including FAO's work on SDG indicators (i.e. 2.4.1)*
 - e) *Evaluation of FAO's strategic results framework*
 - f) *Evaluation of FAO's private sector partnership strategy*
 - g) *Draft Strategy on Biodiversity*

¹³ PC 126/8

¹⁴ PC 126/9

- h) *Progress report on the main features of the draft updated Gender Strategy;*
- i) *Follow-up report on evaluation of FAO's contribution to inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO4) [cf. PC 122/3, PC 122/3 Sup. 1]*
- j) *Indicative Rolling Work Plan of evaluations – Update (including a review of the Progress report on the evaluation of Regional Initiatives)*
- k) *Tentative Agenda for the 128th session of the Programme Committee*
- l) *Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations*
- m) *Date and place of the next session*

23. The Committee agreed to hold informal meetings prior to the formal sessions, one of which prior to the next Conference, to consider:

- a) *the outline of the Strategy on Biodiversity*
- b) *overall perspective and impact of the evaluations of FAO's strategic results framework, draft strategies and SDGs on FAO's next Medium Term Plan*
- c) *discussion on future evaluations for inclusion in the Work Plan of evaluations*
- d) *FAO's work on food safety*
- e) *future direction of the Organization in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Repositioning of the United Nations Development System*
- f) *progress review on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)*
- g) *introduction for new Members of the Programme Committee*

Progress in the implementation of the Action Plan of the Office of Evaluation¹⁵

24. The Committee welcomed the progress report on the Action Plan of the Office of Evaluation, and appreciated the achievements reported therein, and specifically:

- a) acknowledged the implementation of Recommendation 1.i) of the Evaluation of FAO's Evaluation Function with regard to staffing of the Office;
- b) welcomed the new guidelines for integrating gender dimensions in evaluations and requested similar guidelines for cross-cutting issues, especially nutrition and climate change;
- c) requested the Office of Evaluation to apply a rating system and prioritize its recommendations in evaluation reports to be submitted to its next session, as an important tool for learning and guidance for the work of the Organization.

Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations¹⁶

25. The Committee:

- a) welcomed the Progress report on the implementation of Programme Committee recommendations;
- b) suggested the inclusion of delivery dates, when feasible and/or a percentage of implementation rate, to measure the progress in implementation;

¹⁵ PC 126/INF/2

¹⁶ PC 126/INF/3

- c) appreciated this report as a learning tool for the Committee in phrasing its recommendations.

Date and place of the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session

26. The Committee was informed that its 127th session would take place in Rome from 4 to 8 November 2019.

Any other business

27. There was no discussion under this Agenda item.

Annex 1: Draft Resolution
***Further integration of sustainable agricultural approaches, including agroecology,
in the future planning activities of FAO***

THE CONFERENCE,

Recognizing that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner represents a formidable global challenge;

Recognizing that the number and prevalence of undernourished persons in the world is increasingⁱ and if efforts are not enhanced, the SDG target of hunger eradication will not be achieved by 2030;

Expressing concern that unsustainable agricultural practices continue to negatively affect natural resources (such as loss of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions, and land degradation), and show inefficiencies along the food chainⁱⁱ;

Recognizing the urgent need to achieve the environmentally, socially and economically sustainable transformation of our food systems, in line with Agenda 2030 relevant goals and targets;

Recalling that at its 40th session, the FAO Conferenceⁱⁱⁱ endorsed the key role that agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, welcomed the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and called on FAO to continue to strengthen its normative and science and evidence-based work with particular attention to agroecology, biotechnology, sustainable production, climate change, biodiversity, mechanization, statistics, food safety, nutrition, youth and gender.

Stressing that sustainable agriculture, as defined by the five principles of the Common Vision on Sustainable Food and Agriculture, endorsed by COAG at its 25th session^{iv}, can foster inclusive growth, enhance income, promote the eradication of extreme poverty, and improve livelihoods and resilience, in particular of smallholders and family farmers.

Recognizing the co-existence of a broad range of sustainable agricultural approaches, that can contribute to meeting the challenges facing farmers and food systems;

Noting that several of FAO's Regional Conferences held in 2018^v highlighted the need for transformative change to support transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems, and the potential of a number of sustainable agricultural approaches in this regard;

Recognizing agroecology is one approach, among others, to contribute to feeding sustainably a growing population and support countries in achieving SDGs.

Noting further the potential of agricultural innovation in supporting transformative change of the different agricultural systems, and the need to strengthen the capacity of family farmers to innovate, including through adaptation, sustainable use of knowledge systems, indigenous resources, scientific solutions, co-creation and learning;

Recalling that the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in paragraph 14 of its report of the Twenty-sixth Session held in October 2018^{vi} welcomed the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative, and supported the 10 Elements of Agroecology developed by FAO as a guide to one of the ways to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems as benefits each country's national context.

Requests FAO to:

- a) Thoroughly integrate policies and all the approaches towards more sustainable and innovative agricultural and food systems in its planning and work, to fully implement the five principles of sustainable food and agriculture in support of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- b) Continue exploring different sustainable agricultural approaches with the view to maximizing synergies and complementarities;

- c) Demonstrate leadership in promoting inclusive transition towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems, and to proactively engage in efforts to address economic, environmental and social trade-offs;
- d) Give special attention to the specific needs of women, youth and family farmers including within the Framework of the UN Decade of Family Farming;
- e) Assist countries and regions to enhance their commitment and engage more effectively in transitioning towards sustainable agriculture and food systems by:
 - i) Strengthening normative, science and evidence-based work on all sustainable agricultural approaches, by developing appropriate indicators and supporting countries' capacities to measure their compliance, tools and protocols to evaluate the contribution of these practices to sustainable agriculture and food systems;
 - ii) Catalyzing scientific evidence and co-creation of knowledge and innovation, and facilitating their dissemination, in particular with women and youth while also strengthening communication, awareness raising and sharing of experience and good practices;
 - iii) Encouraging innovation in agriculture, inter alia, through the utilization of relevant and context adapted technology - including ICT and biotechnology, - as it can offer a solution for a wide range of issues;
 - iv) Facilitating policy dialogue and providing technical support to countries, upon their request, including capacity development of smallholders and family farmers through, inter alia, south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation, private sector partnerships, and networking among member countries;
- f) Strengthen its collaboration with other United Nations agencies and programmes, in particular IFAD and WFP, in order to scale-up sustainable agricultural approaches, through policies, responsible investments, participatory research and knowledge generation and sharing for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- g) Report regularly on progress on the integration of sustainable agricultural practices including agroecology among others, into the planning and work of the Organization.

Invites all Member States to:

- a) Support FAO and share their own expertise on a broad range of sustainable agriculture practices, including agroecology among others, and foster innovations that enhance food security and nutrition through policies, responsible investments, participatory research and knowledge generation and sharing for the achievement of the SDGs.
- b) Promote and enhance multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with other international and regional organizations, farmers private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, in support of sustainable agricultural practices.

(Adopted on...)

i <http://www.fao.org/3/I9553EN/i9553en.pdf>, (SOFI 2018, p.xii)

ii <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6583e.pdf>, (The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges, p. 49)

iii <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu208e.pdf>, p.6

iv <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr949e.pdf> (p.7)

v A) The Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific (APRC) “noted the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural production through agro-ecological methods increasing biodiversity, and supporting Globally Important

Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) as well as biotechnologies” in order to implement the climate change elements of the 2030 Agenda (Para. 19 v; APRC/18/REP). The APRC also highlighted agroecology as one of the relevant strategies - among others- to bring about sustainable intensification of agriculture in order to feed the growing population (Para. 16 iv; APRC/18/REP).

- B) The Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) recommended FAO to “support knowledge exchange for agricultural innovation, including agroecology, biotechnologies and other technologies, to enhance sustainable rural development.” (Para 18 vi; LARC/18/REP). The LARC also recommended FAO to “Support the development of strategies and policies for the conservation and recovery of degraded forests and soils, by encouraging countries to invest in national initiatives on agro-forestry, agroecological and organic production systems as well as biotechnologies that protect and preserve biodiversity, especially for family farmers, and support experience exchange initiatives at global and regional levels” (Para. 20 vii; LARC/18/REP).
- C) The Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference for Europe and Central Asia (ERC):
- “highlighted the potential of agroecological approaches, in particular for smallholders and family farmers, to accelerate the transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems and called on governments to promote such agroecological and other sustainable agricultural approaches as befits their national contexts” (Para. 18 c; ERC/18/REP);
 - “emphasized the need for research and quality data on agroecological and other sustainable agricultural approaches” (Para. 18 d; ERC/18/REP);
 - “requested that FAO ii) incorporate agroecological approaches and diversification into the three Regional Initiatives; and iii) further develop its work on agroecology, for example in the context of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) and the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative, discussing this in FAO’s technical and governing bodies” (Para. 18 k; ERC/18/REP);
 - “reiterated the importance of combining digital technological innovations with other innovations, including agroecology as well as enhanced capacities of all actors, in order to promote a development change in food and agriculture systems” (Para. 20 b; ERC/18/REP).
- D) The Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC):
- “recognized the contribution of agroecology to support adaptation to climate change in semi-arid areas for sustainable agricultural development, food security and nutrition” (Para. 17 a; NERC/18/REP). In this regard, the NERC “called upon governments to identify and provide incentives to agricultural producers particularly small-scale farmers to foster transitions to more sustainable agriculture and food systems, based on agro-ecological practices” (Para. 17 b; NERC/18/REP);
 - “invited stakeholders to establish national and regional platforms for exchange of knowledge and experiences on agroecology” (Para. 17 c; NERC/18/REP)
 - “encouraged Members to promote the adoption and scaling up of agroecology, which requires mobilization of resources and cooperation between countries that share common agroecological concerns” (Para. 17 d; NERC/18/REP).
 - requested FAO to “integrate agroecology into the existing Regional Initiatives and strengthen its work on agroecology in the context of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (Para. 18 a; NERC/18/REP);
 - “support countries to build on the successes achieved under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation experience for enhancing cooperation and experience sharing in the area of agroecology” (Para. 18 b; NERC/18/REP);
 - “support countries to better work together with the other active partner organizations and international and regional research organizations for promoting and upscaling agroecology” (Para. 18 c; NERC/18/REP)
 - “build countries capacities in the areas of relevance to agroecology for climate adaptation for food security and nutrition, including support to rehabilitation of degraded lands, monitoring and assessment of land degradation and taking a proactive role in rangelands management and the conservation of biodiversity” (Para. 18 d; NERC/18/REP).
- E) The Fifth Session of the FAO Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) identified the support to agroecological approaches as a complementary tool with other agricultural innovations and urged FAO to work more closely with Member States on agroecology going forward.