Conference arrangements

1. The 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) will be held in virtual modality from 19 to 21 October 2020.

2. This decision follows consultations by the Director-General with the Chairperson of the LARC and the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), including on special procedures to be applied for the virtual modality of the Regional Conference.

3. Special procedures for the virtual modality outlined in this Information Note will be confirmed by the Regional Conference during Item 2 “Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable”, and said confirmation will be recorded in the Report of the 36th Session of the LARC.

4. The inaugural ceremony will take place online at 07.00 hours (UTC/GMT-6) on Monday, 19 October 2020, and the Session for the High-Level Panel “Reflections towards FAO’s Strategic Framework and Results and Priorities in the Region, and Adjustments due to COVID-19” convenes from 08.30 to 12.30 hours (UTC/GMT-6). Heads of Delegations are requested to be present at this time.

5. All session times indicated are those of the Republic of Nicaragua (UTC/GMT-6).

6. All meetings of the Regional Conference will be conducted through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The link to register for the Zoom meeting will be distributed in a separate message. A dry-run of the virtual modality will be held on 15 October 2020 at 11:00 hours GMT–6 and will last about an hour. Delegations are strongly encouraged to attend this session in order to ensure that any issues or challenges are addressed and resolved prior to the actual virtual session of the Regional Conference. More details will follow in due course.

7. An “Order of the Day” will be issued daily giving detailed information of the Regional Conference business, timetable of meetings, items to be discussed and other general information.

8. The Provisional Annotated Agenda (LARC/20/1 Rev.1), Provisional Timetable (LARC/20/INF/2 Rev.1) and Provisional List of Documents (LARC/20/INF/3 Rev.1) are available on the LARC website at: http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/.

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1 Rescheduled from 27-29 April 2020, Managua, Nicaragua.
Working languages

9. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. The documentation will also be issued in English, French and Spanish.

Press liaison and information

10. During the Regional Conference, the FAO Information Officer, together with the counterpart Officer appointed by the Government of Nicaragua, will liaise with the press and handle matters for public information.

Documentation


12. Working documents will be made available to all participating governments and organizations, before the Regional Conference commences, at the following address: http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/.

Advance written correspondence on agenda items

13. Given the decision to hold the 36th Session of the Regional Conference in virtual mode and in order to establish a prior dialogue to improve the efficiency of the virtual meeting, a Document Review/Comments Process has been established. This process consists of the following:

- Delegates and Observers will have the opportunity to comment in writing on the documents listed in Paragraph 14 of this Information Note between 21 September and 9 October.
- Comments should be sent to the email RLC-LARC36@fao.org, no later than 14 October. The subject line of the email should indicate clearly, to which agenda item the submitted input relate. These will be published on the LARC36 Platform (private space for participants) as they were sent and will be compiled in a summary.
- This summary of the comments received in writing from Members and Observers will be presented at the Regional Conference immediately prior to the plenary discussion.

14. The discussion of the following documents was prioritized:

- LARC/20/2 Transforming food systems for healthy diets for all
- LARC/20/3 Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies
- LARC/20/4 Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture
- LARC/20/5 Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean region
- LARC/20/8 Improving FAO’s capacities to serve member countries in Latin American and the Caribbean
- LARC/20/9 Innovation and Digital Agriculture
- LARC/20/10 COVID-19 update and adjustments to FAO’s regional priorities to address impact on food security and nutrition, and food systems

15. Videos on the main documents and summaries of the discussion on the documentation are uploaded to the Regional Conference website at: http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/larc36.
16. Items considered under the written correspondence procedure will form an integral part of the deliberations and report of the 36th Session of the LARC.

17. The Report of the 36th Session of the LARC will record Members’ consensus on the amended modalities for the Session outlined in this Information Note, including with regard to the written consultation on selected agenda items.

18. The LARC36 Platform will be available by password at: LARC36 Platform. Registered participants will receive the username and password by separate email after registration.

Speeches and statements

19. It is recommended that Members limit their interventions to five minutes.

General enquiries

20. All correspondence relating to the Regional Conference should be addressed to the Conference Secretary at the following address:

Conference Secretary
Ms Eve Crowley
36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, Chile
E-mail: RLC-Conferencia@fao.org

Webcasting

21. All Plenary sessions will be webcast live and uploaded to the Regional Conference website at: https://www.fao.org/ConferenciaFAOAmericas.

Online registration

22. Participants are informed that they should register online at the following address: registration link. Once the registration for LARC is approved through Cvent, participants will automatically be registered for the Zoom virtual meeting by the Secretariat.

23. A confirmation email with the link to access the virtual meeting room will be sent to the email address provided during the registration.