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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-ninth Session

Rome, 4-8 June 2018

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:

- 1) Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR);
- 2) The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (Madrid, 29 to 30 October 2018);
- 3) Second UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires Action Plan for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries +40);
- 4) Report of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to the UN General Assembly;
- 5) FAO and the Work on Migration in Global *Fora*.

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 159th Session of the Council for information only.

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I. Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a threat to lives and livelihoods in every country and, if action is not taken now, the results will be catastrophic. By 2050, more than USD 6 trillion could be lost annually from the global economy, representing nearly four percent of the annual global Gross Domestic Product. FAO is fully committed to working on this issue, in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR.
2. The UN General Assembly issued a mandate through a political declaration (Resolution 71/3, 5 October 2016) to convene an *ad hoc* Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG), in consultation with the Tripartite (World Health Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), to provide practical guidance for approaches needed to ensure sustained effective global action to address AMR and to include options to improve coordination.
3. The work of IACG is strengthening the existing work and relationship of the Tripartite to tackle “One Health” issues, including AMR. It is an excellent example for UN collaboration. The IACG has six sub-groups: (i) good practices, (ii) surveillance, (iii) National Action Plans, (iv) communications and behaviour change, (v) research and development and access and (vi) and global governance. FAO is represented in each sub-group.
4. FAO attended the high-level Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) meeting in Leeds Castle, United Kingdom, on 25-26 April, as well as the meeting between the heads of the Tripartite on the sidelines of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) meeting in London. The two meetings discussed possible ways forward on AMR and the role of the Tripartite in maintaining its coordinating role on AMR.

II. The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, scheduled to take place in Madrid from 29 to 30 October 2018

5. On 29 and 30 October 2018, the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition will take place in Madrid, Spain. This Summit is a joint initiative of the Spanish Senate, FAO, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the European Parliament. The Summit’s main goal is to advance the political will, as expressed by parliaments, to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) in order to face the fight against hunger in a world where the estimated number of undernourished people increased to 815 million in 2016. Undernourishment, combined with the epidemic of obesity and excess weight, is on the rise; in high- and medium-developed countries, more than 2.1 billion adults have been classified as overweight in 2016, of which over 650 million were obese.
6. Parliamentarians are best placed to position the issue of food security and nutrition at the highest level of the political and legislative agenda with their legislative, budgetary and oversight responsibilities. Given their key role, FAO has intensified its efforts to support the work of parliamentarians towards meeting the mutual commitments on food security and nutrition, including enacting good laws and advocating for the effective implementation of related policies and programmes.
7. In this context, the Summit brings together parliamentarians across the world to consolidate the parliamentary political commitment to achieving SDG 2 at the international level, based on the following specific objectives:
 - Highlight the specific role and the need for legislative bodies to achieve a world without hunger by 2030;
 - Identify and share experiences of good policies and legislative practices, which are fundamental in the fight against hunger and malnutrition;

- Build a network of parliamentary alliances that contribute to the achievement of SDG2: Zero Hunger, progress towards the commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN 2), and the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable people and territories.

III. Second UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires Action Plan for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries +40)

8. The Second UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, entitled Buenos Aires Action Plan for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries +40 (BAPA+40) will take place from 20 to 22 March 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the level of Heads of State. It commemorates the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, the first designated instrument for strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).
9. Besides the implementation of the SSTC programme, FAO's contribution to the BAPA+40 process includes the following: organization of this year's South-South Cooperation Day on 11 September at FAO headquarters, with a thematic focus on SSTC and climate change; carrying out a strategic review of FAO's activities in order to mainstream SSTC into the work of the Organization (1996-2017); preparation of a flagship report, which will be presented as a major publication at BAPA+40, highlighting FAO's leading role as facilitator of SSTC in the areas of food and agriculture; organization of a High-level Forum on FAO-China South-South Cooperation to be held in October 2018 in order to support SDG implementation in China.
10. The Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) are implementing a joint roadmap to strengthen the three agencies' collective efforts to facilitate SSTC. It includes a concrete action plan leading to BAPA+40, consisting of a detailed line-up of products and deliverables to present before and during the Conference.

IV. Report on the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to the United Nations General Assembly

11. On 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution 70/259 through which it proclaimed 2016-2025 the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. The Resolution 70/259 called upon FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) to lead the implementation of the Nutrition Decade, and invited the UN Secretary-General to inform the UNGA about the implementation of the Nutrition Decade on the basis of biennial reports jointly compiled by FAO and WHO.
12. The first progress report has been submitted pursuant to UNGA Resolution 70/259, which outlines progress made in implementing the Nutrition Decade, reflecting key developments at international, regional and country levels. It is foreseen that the report will be tabled under agenda item 14 of the current session of the UNGA entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields". The date of the discussion of this item by the UNGA is expected to be set shortly.

V. FAO and the Work on Migration in Global *Fora*

13. Migration is an increasingly important area of work for FAO. In its revised Strategic Framework, FAO has renewed its commitment to work on migration issues. In particular, migration and remittances are part of FAO's integrated approach for rural poverty reduction and programme of action for Strategic Objective 3: Reduce Rural Poverty. FAO works to enhance: (i) evidence about

labour migration and the impact of migration and remittances on rural livelihoods; (ii) technical support and capacity development to governments and rural stakeholders; (iii) strengthened policy dialogue; and (iv) more systematic contribution to existing global cooperation mechanisms.

14. Since June 2014, FAO has been a member of the Global Migration Group (GMG). By joining the GMG, FAO gains access to the main body for dialogue on migration issues at global level, which gives the Organization the visibility and recognition necessary to expand work in this important thematic area. Being part of the GMG is an effective channel to interact more systematically with other UN agencies, including the other RBAs who recently joined the Group. The GMG provides the three agencies with a wider platform for collaboration. By coordinating and joining efforts, FAO, IFAD and WFP can better mainstream agriculture, rural development and food security concerns in the global migration debate. FAO participates in relevant GMG meetings both at managerial/strategic and technical/operational levels. Internally, the Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP) is the responsible technical unit for migration, and it collaborates closely with FAO offices in both New York and Geneva.

15. FAO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are co-chairs of the GMG in 2018. To strengthen their overall collaboration, the two organizations signed a new Memorandum of Understanding in January 2018. In November 2017, FAO obtained observer status with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which is an important partner of the GMG.

16. 2018 is a critical year for the future of migration as UN Member States will adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), as well as a Global Compact on Refugees. FAO and IOM, as co-facilitators of the GCM process, are working to channel the expertise of the GMG members in support of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration (OSRSG). FAO and IOM will coordinate GMG Members in developing issue briefs and organizing side events to inform the GCM discussions on specific thematic issues. The last round of negotiations towards the GCM will be held from 9 to 13 July 2018 in New York, and the final text will be adopted at an international conference to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018.

17. FAO's co-chairmanship of the GMG opens up new opportunities for collaboration with WFP and IFAD. The RBAs, together with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and IOM, have provided technical support to the G7 discussions on migration, food security and rural development.