

Specific criteria for the different groups of non-state actors include:

Private Sector

- Type of actor (to ensure that private sector associations/multinational/national companies are represented).
- Geographic representation (to ensure that the different parts of the Sub-Saharan Africa region are represented).
- Type of business (to ensure that the crop, livestock, fishery and forestry sectors are represented).
- Track record (preference will be given to actors that have participated in the FAO international symposium (15-17 February 2016) and that are actively engaged in other science and technology activities/international fora).

Civil Society

- Relevance to FAO's mandate and to the scope/focus of the regional meeting: The civil society organization's (CSO) mandate or work should include science and technology, including agricultural biotechnologies, related to food security and nutrition and is committed to FAO's mandate to reduce poverty and eliminate food insecurity worldwide.
- Representativeness: The CSO is representative of one or more specific sectors of the population who share common interests, with particular reference to the most vulnerable and isolated groups.
- Independence: The work of the CSO is autonomous and not subject to external influence. Its sources of funding are transparent and free from any stringent condition that could weaken its action and undermine its legitimacy as an independent actor of change.
- Transparency: The CSO demonstrates a consistent pattern of making decisions and implementing actions in accordance with internal rules, norms and regulations that are known and understood by all concerned. Adequate information about decisions and actions is freely and constantly provided in accessible ways and in forms that are easily understood by all concerned.
- Balanced representation in terms of geography, gender, age and constituencies represented, in accordance with the "Guidelines for ensuring balanced representation of civil society in FAO meetings and processes" will be sought.
- In general terms, priority will be given to people representing small-scale food producers (including farmers, fishers, artisans, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, landless, rural workers, with special attention to women and youth)

Academia and research institutions

- Type of actor (ensure that different organizations and research centers are represented).
- Geographic representation
- Type of institution (covering the crop, livestock, fishery and/or forestry sectors).
- Recognized expertise in agriculture and agricultural biotechnologies, specifically related to climate change, sustainable food systems and nutrition or institutional aspects.
- Accreditation as an institution of higher learning and research which enjoys academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and is transparent in its governance and funding.

Cooperatives and producer organizations

- Representation (affiliation to one of the FAO major partners).
- Geographical and gender balance.

- Sector (crop, livestock, forestry, and/or fishery sectors).
- Mandate/work includes science and technology, including agricultural biotechnologies.