

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Organisation des
Nations Unies pour
l'alimentation et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

Draft Agenda

Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia 16–17 May 2019, Budapest, Hungary

Background

The Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia provides a platform on which the FAO Regional Office and Member Countries can interact between sessions of the Regional Conference for Europe. It also facilitates consultation, considering the limited presence of FAO at the country level in the Europe and Central Asia Region. Used successfully since 2010, this mechanism has been well-received by all countries in the region.

The main purposes of the Informal Consultations have been:

- 1) to facilitate an exchange of views among all Members of the Europe and Central Asia Region;
- 2) to inform and update the Member Countries of the region on the implementation of FAO's programme of work in the region; and
- 3) to review priorities in the region in preparation for the Regional Conference in 2020.

Scope of Informal Consultation

The FAO programme in the Europe and Central Asia Region for 2018–19 is guided by the results from the Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in May 2018, and is based on the priorities of the three Regional Initiatives, which are the key programmatic umbrella for the implementation of the work programme in the region.¹ In addition, food security and nutrition, gender and climate change have been embedded in the three Regional Initiatives as cross-cutting issues, for example through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and social protection and sustainable food and agriculture. Using the Regional Initiatives as the programmatic umbrella to increase focus and impact, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) have been formulated with an increased focus on enhancing the impact of FAO's work at the country level and aligning with the national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) plans. The review of the preliminary results achieved during the 2018–19 biennium and of the regional priorities will guide the future scope of FAO's Regional Initiatives in the context of achieving the SDGs within a decade.

The Forty-first Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), to be held in Budapest in October 2019, will focus on technical issues related to plant health, in consideration that the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) is foreseen for 2020. The ECA Session will be an integral element of the preparation to the ERC 2020 and will discuss technical issues for decision.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/mw908en/mw908en.pdf> – “Results and Priorities for FAO in the Region,” paragraphs 23 and 24

The ongoing United Nations development system reform process means significant changes to the setup, leadership, accountability mechanisms and capacities of the whole UN development system, ensuring it meets national needs for achieving the SDGs and meeting the commitments made under the Paris Agreement to address climate change. At the country level, the reform will bring a new generation of UN country teams, centred around a strategic country plan – developed in close consultation with governments – and led by an empowered UN Resident Coordinator to support Member States in guiding system-wide actions and bringing greater transparency and accountability for results.²

The discussion and results from the Informal Consultation and the ECA Session will guide the work planning in the region for the biennium 2020–21, which starts in the second semester of 2019, as well as inform on elements for the ERC 2020. The Informal Consultation further offers opportunities to discuss priority themes and initiatives for the region, such as the International Decade for Family Farming (2019–2028), the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025), and progress made in achieving relevant SDGs.

16 May 2019	
11.00–13.00	Registration
12.00–13.00	Lunch
<u>Session 1 – Plenary</u> Opening, welcome, and main objectives of the meeting	
13.00–13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture, Hungary • Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia • Ms Aulikki Hulmi, Chair of the Europe Regional Group (ERG), Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO
<u>Session 2 – Plenary</u> Implementation of FAO’s work in the region in 2018–2019, with a focus on the Regional Initiatives’ contribution to SDGs – key challenges and opportunities	
<i>Background documents:</i> IC/19/4 - Update on the Implementation of the PWB 2018-19 IC/19/5 - Summary Note of the Regional Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2022) IC/19/6 - FAO regional strategies for climate finance flow in Europe and Central Asia: GCF and GEF-7	
13.30–14.00	<p>The Secretariat will introduce briefly the status of workplan implementation of 2018–19 including the regional gender strategy and strategies for climate finance flows in the region, lessons learned taking into consideration the strong focus of supporting the SDGs at the country level.</p> <p>Members may want to express their views on the different issues presented including the programmatic approach of the Regional Initiatives.</p>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/repositioning-the-un-development-system/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO 				
Session 3 – Working Groups Review of the work-programme in the region for 2020–21 in light of the regional priorities					
<i>Background document:</i> IC/19/7 - Review of the FAO programmatic framework for 2020-2021 for Europe and Central Asia					
14.00–16.00	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Group A How to enhance support to smallholders and family farms? </td> <td> Group B How to transition to more inclusive and efficient agrifood systems and increasing market access? </td> <td> Group C How to build resilience to climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards for sustainable food systems? </td> <td> Group D How to address food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition to achieve SDG 2? </td> </tr> </table>	Group A How to enhance support to smallholders and family farms?	Group B How to transition to more inclusive and efficient agrifood systems and increasing market access?	Group C How to build resilience to climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards for sustainable food systems?	Group D How to address food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition to achieve SDG 2?
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Plenary: Presentation and discussion from the results of the working groups					
16.00–16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators of groups A, B, C and D 				
16.30–17.00	Coffee break				
Session 4 – Plenary Regional Technical Commissions’ contribution to the Regional Priorities					
<i>Background document:</i> IC/19/8 - Regional Technical Commissions’ contribution to the Regional Priorities					
17.00–18.00	<p>This session will allow the Members to get information, discuss and share views on the debates in the different Technical Commissions in the region as part of the efforts to closer integrate the Commissions in the overall programming in the region. This is also based on the fact that the Commissions, in the meantime, also formally report to the ERC and contribute to its agenda. The objective of this session is to seek the Members’ views on how to enhance collaboration among the executive committees of the various commissions on common topics, such as the SDGs and climate change, and on the way forward to facilitate exchanges among commissions in order to better coordinate the inputs to the ERC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chairs/Secretariats of ECA, EIFAAC, GFCM, CACFISH, EuFMD and EFC</i> 				

17 May 2019

Session 5 – Plenary**The repositioned United Nations development system in the region: implications and opportunities for FAO within the support to the SDGs***Background documents:*[IC/19/9 – Review the progress on FAO’s support to SDG nationalization and monitoring in the region](#)[IC/19/10 - UN reform and implications for FAO in the region](#)

09.00–09.30	The Secretariat will provide an overview of the status and implications of the repositioned UN development system in the region and its opportunities. This will also include information on the progress by countries and FAO’s
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	<p>support to SDG nationalization processes and monitoring in the region. The Members may express their views and reflect from their points of view in order to increase coherence and approach at country and regional levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN reform for a repositioned United Nations development system: implication and opportunities for FAO <i>FAO</i> • Review the progress on FAO's support to SDG nationalization and monitoring in the region <i>FAO</i>
9.30-10.00	Coffee break
<u>Panel discussion</u>	
10.00–12.00	<p>After the presentations, representatives of Member States and participants from civil society organizations and private sector will exchange their views in an interactive, moderated panel discussion. They also will provide their recommendations on the future scope of Regional Initiatives as well as opportunities on partnership involvement to increase progress on implementing the SDGs – and SDG 2 in particular – in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion with a moderator and panelists from selected countries of the region and civil society organization participants as well as an UN Resident Coordinator including positions from the floor of the member countries
12.00–12.30	Coffee break
<u>Session 6 – Plenary</u> Draft Annotated Agenda for the Forty-first ECA Draft provisional annotated agenda for the Thirty-second ERC	
<i>Background documents:</i> IC/19/11 - Provisional Annotated Agenda of the 41st Session of the European Commission for Agriculture (ECA) IC/19/12 - Draft Annotated Agenda of the 32nd ERC	
12.30–13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisional Agenda for the Forty-first ECA Introduction of the item by the ECA Secretary • Proposals for agenda items for the Thirty-second ERC Introduction of the item by the ERC Secretariat Discussion and views by the Members
<u>Session 7 – Plenary</u> Wrap-up and closure	
13.30–14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the follow-up by the Secretariat • Wrap-up and closure
14.00–15.00	Lunch