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Organization of the  
United Nations

ERC/16/REP

# REPORT

Antalya  
Turkey  
4-6 May 2016

## **Thirtieth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe**

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*List of FAO Members in Europe and Central Asia*

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7. Belgium
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Bulgaria
10. Croatia
11. Cyprus
12. Czech Republic
13. Denmark
14. Estonia
15. European Union (Member Organization)
16. Finland
17. France
18. Georgia
19. Germany
20. Greece
21. Hungary
22. Iceland
23. Ireland
24. Israel
25. Italy
26. Kazakhstan
27. Kyrgyzstan
28. Latvia
29. Lithuania
30. Luxembourg
31. Malta
32. Monaco
33. Montenegro
34. Netherlands
35. Norway
36. Poland
37. Portugal
38. Republic of Moldova
39. Romania
40. Russian Federation
41. San Marino
42. Serbia
43. Slovakia
44. Slovenia
45. Spain
46. Sweden
47. Switzerland
48. The former Yugoslav Republic of  
Macedonia
49. Tajikistan
50. Turkey
51. Turkmenistan
52. Ukraine
53. United Kingdom
54. Uzbekistan

Faroe Islands (Associate Member)

*Date and place of the Sessions of the FAO Regional Conferences for Europe*

First	-	Rome, Italy	10-15 October 1949
Second	-	Rome, Italy	10-15 October 1960
Third	-	Rome, Italy	8-13 October 1962
Fourth	-	Salzburg, Austria	26-31 October 1964
Fifth	-	Seville, Spain	5-11 October 1966
Sixth	-	St. Julian's, Malta	28-31 October 1968
Seventh	-	Budapest, Hungary	21-25 September 1970
Eighth	-	Munich, Germany, Fed. Rep. of	18-23 September 1972
Ninth	-	Lausanne, Switzerland	7-12 October 1974
Tenth	-	Bucharest, Romania	20-25 September 1976
Eleventh	-	Lisbon, Portugal	2-7 October 1978
Twelfth	-	Athens, Greece	22-27 September 1980
Thirteenth	-	Sofia, Bulgaria	4-8 October 1982
Fourteenth	-	Reykjavik, Iceland	17-21 September 1984
Fifteenth	-	Istanbul, Turkey	28 April-2 May 1986
Sixteenth	-	Krakow, Poland	23-26 August 1988
Seventeenth	-	Venice, Italy	3-7 April 1990
Eighteenth	-	Prague, Czechoslovakia	24-28 August 1992
Nineteenth	-	Killarney, Ireland	6-10 June 1994
Twentieth	-	Tel Aviv, Israel	29 April-3 May 1996
Twenty-first	-	Tallinn, Estonia	25-29 May 1998
Twenty-second	-	Porto, Portugal	24-28 July 2000
Twenty-third	-	Nicosia, Cyprus	29-31 May 2002
Twenty-fourth	-	Montpellier, France	5-7 May 2004
Twenty-fifth	-	Riga, Latvia	8-9 June 2006
Twenty-sixth	-	Innsbruck, Austria	26-27 June 2008
Twenty-seventh	-	Yerevan, Armenia	13-14 May 2010
Twenty-eighth	-	Baku, Azerbaijan	19-20 April 2012
Twenty-ninth	-	Bucharest, Romania	2-4 April 2014
Thirtieth	-	Antalya, Turkey	4-6 May 2016

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## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

### ***MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL***

The Thirtieth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe:

#### ***Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major work streams***

- Welcomed that the independent evaluation to assess the effectiveness of CFS since its reform in 2009 can start in 2016, and encouraged the active participation of all stakeholders in the activities to be carried out by the Committee in 2016-2017. (para. 14b)
- Advocated greater involvement of the CFS to add value to relevant global issues such as the SDGs and nutrition, in line with its mandate and without overloading its agenda. (para. 14c)

#### ***Decentralized Offices Network***

- Acknowledged the importance of reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of its Strategic Objectives. (para. 20a)
- Broadly endorsed the principles and general criteria for reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region, recognizing that further developments are needed to deal with diversity, management complexity and the responsibilities of each office. (para. 20b)
- Acknowledged the important contributions that the Government of Turkey continues to provide for the operation of the Subregional Office for Central Asia and for programmes in the region (para. 20c)
- Recommended not to change the location of the Regional and Subregional Offices at this point in time. (para. 20d)
- Welcomed the fact that the Liaison Office in Brussels is scheduled to play a more active role in the relationship with the EU. (para. 20e)
- Examined the changes recommended for Europe and Central Asia, and suggested that the office in Uzbekistan could be upgraded, provided that it meets the stated criterion of budget neutrality. (para. 20f)
- Noted the clarification on the liaison function of the Moscow Office with regard to regional institutions located nearby, as well as clarification on the funding of FAO representatives in partnership and liaison offices, which will not come from assessed contributions of Members. (para. 20g)
- Requested that further information be provided to Members prior to the FAO Council on any proposed post transfers related to changes in the decentralized office network. (para. 20h)

#### ***Results from the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and update on the implementation of the PWB 2016-17***

- Supported the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to bring greater focus to FAO's work on: (i) Empowering smallholders and family farms in Europe and Central Asia, and (ii) Agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia;

as well as attention to strengthening food security and nutrition, natural resource management including fisheries and forestry, and control of animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety hazards (para. 22b)

- Underlined the importance of FAO demonstrating commitment in implementing Conference Resolution 4/2015 on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). (para. 22d)
- Welcomed the call by Council for the FAO Secretariat to undertake an independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization, both at headquarters and in decentralized offices, to be presented to the Conference in 2017, and looked forward to a transparent process, including consultation with the governing bodies. (para. 22e)
- Urged the Secretariat to consider the maintenance of technical capacity at FAO headquarters as a guiding principle for planning staff allocation. (para. 22f)
- Urged FAO to work with Members in collaboration and partnership with relevant subregional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity-development to Member countries and building on FAO's normative and standard-setting work (para. 22g)
- Looked forward to continued improvement of FAO's organizational effectiveness including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks contributing to the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs. (para.22h)
- Encouraged the increased use of the Russian language in FAO's work, particularly for flagship publications. (para. 22i)

#### ***Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region***

- Underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and welcomed the strategic planning process under way. (para. 24a)
- Agreed that recent important global developments will frame national and regional action and FAO's work in food and agriculture in the future, including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the ICN2 Framework for Action, as well as the outcome of the Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification. (para 24c)
- Noted the trends in the region concerning rural poverty and migration, farm structure, sustainability of food production and food systems, nutrition, and agricultural trade policy, and looked forward to further analytical work by FAO as a basis for guiding future work in the region. (para. 24d)
- Concerning agricultural trade policy, supported alignment of trade and sanitary and phytosanitary policies to meet World Trade Organization commitments, but could not come to agreement on the other trends contained in paragraphs 44-48 of the document. (para 24e)
- Underlined the importance of taking into consideration the trends and roles of the fisheries and forestry sectors, particularly their contribution to sustainable management of natural resources and the achievement of the SDGs. (para. 24f)
- Highlighted that attention should continue to be given to addressing gender equality and women's empowerment, young farmers and youth employment, and transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, and to promoting the use of CFS and FAO voluntary guidelines. (para. 24g)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)***

- Noted that the initiative on the establishment of a Eurasian Soil Commission should be reconsidered in view of the objective to restrict the number of Article VI and Article XIV bodies and avoid duplication of work (para. 26b)
- Underlined the importance of the assessment of the ECA and its contribution to FAO's work in the region. (para. 26c)
- Encouraged FAO to maximize synergies by collaborating with other relevant international organizations in the region in addressing the social and economic burden of malnutrition (para. 26d)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)***

- Accepted that EIFAAC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference. (para. 28a)
- Highlighted the importance of achieving higher attendance by Members in EIFAAC sessions, in particular in view of the goal 'to continue to develop the EIFAAC as the leading Pan-European organization for inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe'. (para. 28c)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry***

- Accepted that EFC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference. (para. 30a)
- Invited the EFC and COFFI to continue enhancing their cooperation and their collaboration with relevant forestry-related organizations in the region. (para. 30e)
- Welcomed the EFC recommendations for the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) and encouraged the EFC to continue providing input to the future work of the ERC and COFO. (para. 30f)

***Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)***

- Welcomed and endorsed the MYPOW for the period 2016-2019, as amended, encouraging close cooperation between ERC and the three reporting regional commissions (ECA, EFC and EIFAAC). (para. 32a)
- Underlined that the MYPOW should become a genuine results-based tool to improve the functioning of the ERC and should be developed in close consultation with Members of the European region. (para. 32b)



***MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE***

The Thirtieth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe:

***Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major work streams***

- Welcomed the progress achieved, in particular the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI) and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS FFA). (para. 14a)

***Ministerial Round Table: The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region***

- Noted the importance of collaboration among Members in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and the role of the Regional Conference in this context. (para. 16a)
- Underlined the importance of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their crucial role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy-makers. (para. 16d)
- Highlighted that sustainable land use, protection of biodiversity and education and training are important areas for achieving the SDGs. (para. 16e)
- Stressed the important role of the region in implementing the SDGs, through research and innovation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and capacity development in the food and agricultural sector. (para. 16f)
- Urged the involvement and consideration of women and youth in the implementation of the SDGs. (para. 16g)
- Highlighted the importance of tackling food losses and waste as a contribution to sustainable development. (para. 16h)
- Emphasized trade as an important means to implement the 2030 Agenda. (para. 16i)
- Highlighted the important role of FAO's normative work, including in contributing to a common understanding of sustainable agriculture. (para. 16j)
- Urged the mobilization of the private sector and civil society in supporting the implementation of the SDGs. (para. 16k)

***Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016***

- Underscored the multiple benefits of pulses and their contribution to sustainable agriculture, nutrition and human health. (para. 18b)
- Underlined the environmental benefits of growing pulses and their role in maintaining healthy soils as well as their contribution in lowering the carbon footprint. (para. 18c)
- Encouraged Members to apply policies that fit best in developing pulses' value chains. (para. 18d)

- Encouraged Members and FAO to continue raising public awareness on the importance of pulses for food security and nutrition, including during the International Year of Pulses 2016. (para. 18e)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)***

- Acknowledged the main recommendations of the report, namely on a) innovation in family farming, b) combating land degradation for food security, c) gender sensitive analysis of social protection programmes, d) addressing the social and economic burden of malnutrition (para. 26a)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)***

- Recognized EIFAAC as a good platform for research on topics such as fish migration in European inland waters, predators and invasive species. (para. 28b)
- Underscored the need to better link EIFAAC's work to important global issues such as food security and better align its mission and work plan with the SDGs. (para. 28d)

***Report from the outcome of the debate of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry***

- Highlighted the importance of forests and sustainable forest management in contributing to many of the SDGs. (para. 30c)
- Highlighted the importance of boreal forests and their role in regulating global climate, and urged FAO to explore further possibilities for enhancing its work on boreal forests. (para. 30d)

***Initiative for declaring 20 May as “World Bee Day”***

- The delegation of Slovenia drew attention to Slovenia’s initiative to declare 20 May as “World Bee Day”, stressing the importance of bees for agriculture and food security. The Conference expressed strong support for the initiative. (para. 34)

## I. Introductory Items

### A. Organization of the Conference

1. The Thirtieth FAO Regional Conference for Europe was held in Antalya, Turkey at the invitation of the Government of Turkey.
2. Representatives from 42 member countries and one member organization participated in the Conference. Observers from two United Nations organizations, six inter-governmental organizations, four international non-governmental organizations and three civil society organizations were in attendance as well as two representatives from the private sector and one from research and academia sector.

### B. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteurs

3. His Excellency Faruk Çelik, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, was elected as Chairperson of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference.
4. Dr Hinrich Thölken, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to FAO was elected as first Vice-Chairperson of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference.
5. Mr Ilham Guliyev, Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Azerbaijan was elected as second Vice-Chairperson of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference.
6. Mr Ivan Konstantinopolskiy, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to FAO, and Mr Hans Brand, Policy Coordinator Food Security from the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, were appointed Rapporteurs of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference.

### C. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

7. The Chairperson introduced the agenda, the provisional timetable and proposed to discuss the Slovenian initiative to declare 20 May as the World Bee Day under item 17: Any Other Business.
8. The Conference adopted the agenda and timetable. The agenda is provided in *Appendix A*. Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in *Appendix B*.

### D. Statement by the Director-General

9. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO welcomed participating ministers and dignitaries to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe. The Director-General stressed that food and agriculture were fundamental elements to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that FAO's mandate and its five Strategic Objectives were closely connected to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He further emphasized that the 2030 Agenda called for new combinations in the way that policies, programmes and investments should be pulled together, by involving different ministries and public institutions, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society.
10. In addition, the Director-General noted that FAO was seeking to update the coverage of its decentralized offices, in order to achieve more efficiency and, therefore, better conditions to support Members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, the Director-General underscored FAO's efforts in strengthening the capacities of smallholders and family farmers and improving their

livelihoods and resilience to disasters and shocks, and stressed that providing food security was essential for achieving both sustainable development and peace.

#### **E. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

11. As H.E. (Mr) Wilfred J. Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, had been unable to attend the Regional Conference, his statement was made available to delegates.

#### **F. Statement by the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe**

12. H.E. (Mr) Achim Irimescu delivered the statement on behalf of the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe. In doing so, he reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session, and briefed delegates on subsequent activities undertaken by the Regional Office as a follow-up to the implementation of these recommendations.

### **II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues**

#### **A. Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major work streams**

13. The Conference considered the document ERC/16/2 Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CSF). The Chairperson of the CFS, reported on its accomplishments over the past two years and the relevance of its work to the FAO Regional Conference. She noted, in particular, the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI) and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS FFA), as well as the endorsement of three sets of policy recommendations, which were scientifically informed by reports of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), and with policy recommendations on food losses and waste being of particular relevance in the region. She also reported that CFS had decided to place the implementation of the SDGs at the centre of its work and underlined the universality of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. The Conference:

- a) Welcomed the progress achieved, in particular the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS RAI) and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS FFA).
- b) Welcomed that the independent evaluation to assess the effectiveness of CFS since its reform in 2009 can start in 2016, and encouraged the active participation of all stakeholders in the activities to be carried out by the Committee in 2016-2017.
- c) Advocated greater involvement of the CFS to add value to relevant global issues such as the SDGs and nutrition, in line with its mandate and without overloading its agenda.

**B. Ministerial Round Table: The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region**

15. The Regional Conference considered the document ERC/16/3.

16. The Conference:

- a) Noted the importance of collaboration among Members in the implementation of 2030 Agenda and the role of the Regional Conference in this context.
- b) Took note of the broad alignment of the Organization's Strategic Framework with the Sustainable Development Goals set out in 2030 Agenda.
- c) Appreciated the contribution of FAO in the identification of the relevant 2030 Agenda targets, and its neutral and balanced role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.
- d) Underlined the importance of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their crucial role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy-makers.
- e) Highlighted that sustainable land use, protection of biodiversity and education and training are important areas for achieving the SDGs.
- f) Stressed the important role of the region in implementing the SDGs, through research and innovation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and capacity development in the food and agricultural sector.
- g) Urged the involvement and consideration of women and youth in the implementation of the SDGs.
- h) Highlighted the importance of tackling food losses and waste as a contribution to sustainable development.
- i) Emphasized trade as an important means to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- j) Highlighted the important role of FAO's normative work, including in contributing to a common understanding of sustainable agriculture.
- k) Urged the mobilization of the private sector and civil society in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

**C. Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016**

17. The Regional Conference considered the document ERC/16/4. The Conference was informed about the important contribution of pulses to food security, improved nutrition, protection of the environment, and to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

18. The Conference:

- a) Recognized the contribution of nutritional qualities of pulses to food and feed.
- b) Underscored the multiple benefits of pulses and their contribution to sustainable agriculture, nutrition and human health.
- c) Underlined the environmental benefits of growing pulses and their role in maintaining healthy soils as well as their contribution in lowering the carbon footprint.

- d) Encouraged Members to apply policies that fit best in developing pulses' value chains.
- e) Encouraged Members and FAO to continue raising public awareness on the importance of pulses for food security and nutrition, including during the International Year of Pulses 2016.

### **III. Programme and Budget Matters**

#### **A. Decentralized Offices Network**

19. The Conference considered the document ERC/16/5 providing background information as well as presenting guiding principles for FAO decentralization and key recommendations for debate at the Council in relation to the Europe and Central Asia region.

20. The Conference:

- a) Acknowledged the importance of reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of its Strategic Objectives.
- b) Broadly endorsed the principles and general criteria for reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region, recognizing that further developments are needed to deal with diversity, management complexity and the responsibilities of each office.
- c) Acknowledged the important contributions that the Government of Turkey continues to provide for the operation of the Subregional Office for Central Asia and for programmes in the region.
- d) Recommended not to change the location of the Regional and Subregional Offices at this point in time.
- e) Welcomed the fact that the Liaison Office in Brussels is scheduled to play a more active role in the relationship with the EU.
- f) Examined the changes recommended for Europe and Central Asia, and suggested that the office in Uzbekistan could be upgraded, provided that it meets the stated criterion of budget neutrality.
- g) Noted the clarification on the liaison function of the Moscow Office with regard to regional institutions located nearby, as well as clarification on the funding of FAO representatives in partnership and liaison offices, which will not come from assessed contributions of Members.
- h) Requested that further information be provided to Members prior to the FAO Council on any proposed post transfers related to changes in the decentralized office network.

#### **B. Results from the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and update on the implementation of the PWB 2016-17**

21. The Conference considered the document ERC/16/6.

22. The Conference:

- a) Welcomed the actions undertaken and results achieved during 2014-15 to address regional priorities, particularly through the two Regional Initiatives endorsed by the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference.

- b) Supported the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to bring greater focus to FAO's work on: (i) Empowering smallholders and family farms in Europe and Central Asia, and (ii) Agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia; as well as attention to strengthening food security and nutrition, natural resource management including fisheries and forestry, and control of animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety hazards.
- c) Welcomed nutrition and climate change as cross cutting themes in the PWB 2016-17 and the commitment of FAO to assist countries in achieving the SDGs.
- d) Underlined the importance of FAO demonstrating commitment in implementing Conference Resolution 4/2015 on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- e) Welcomed the call by Council for the FAO Secretariat to undertake an independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization, both at headquarters and in decentralized offices, to be presented to the Conference in 2017, and looked forward to a transparent process, including consultation with the governing bodies.
- f) Urged the Secretariat to consider the maintenance of technical capacity at FAO headquarters as a guiding principle for planning staff allocation.
- g) Urged FAO to work with Members in collaboration and partnership with relevant subregional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity-development to Member countries and building on FAO's normative and standard-setting work.
- h) Appreciated the increased collaboration between FAO headquarters and decentralized offices and looked forward to continued improvement of FAO's organizational effectiveness including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks contributing to the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and the SDGs.
- i) Encouraged the increased use of the Russian language in FAO's work, particularly for flagship publications.

### **C. Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region**

23. The Conference considered the document ERC/16/7, taking into account the main global and regional trends and developments, as a contribution by the governing bodies to the review of the FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018 -21.

24. The Conference:

- a) Underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and welcomed the strategic planning process under way.
- b) Appreciated the full alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the SDGs set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- c) Agreed that recent important global developments will frame national and regional action and FAO's work in food and agriculture in the future, including the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the ICN2 Framework for Action, as well as the outcome of the Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification.
- d) Noted the trends in the region concerning rural poverty and migration, farm structure, sustainability of food production and food systems, nutrition, and agricultural trade policy,

and looked forward to further analytical work by FAO as a basis for guiding future work in the region.

- e) Concerning agricultural trade policy, supported alignment of trade and sanitary and phytosanitary policies to meet World Trade Organization commitments, but could not come to agreement on the other trends contained in paragraphs 44-48 of the document.
- f) Underlined the importance of taking into consideration the trends and roles of the fisheries and forestry sectors, particularly their contribution to sustainable management of natural resources and the achievement of the SDGs.
- g) Highlighted that attention should continue to be given to addressing gender equality and women's empowerment, young farmers and youth employment, and transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, and to promoting the use of CFS and FAO voluntary guidelines.

#### **IV. Other Matters**

##### **A. Standing item: Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**

25. Ms Marietta Okenkova, acting Chair of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), introduced the Report of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ERC/16/8) held in Budapest, Hungary from 22-23 September 2015.

26. The Conference:

- a) Acknowledged the main recommendations of the report, namely on a) innovation in family farming, b) combating land degradation for food security, c) gender sensitive analysis of social protection programmes, d) addressing the social and economic burden of malnutrition.
- b) Noted that the initiative on the establishment of a Eurasian Soil Commission should be reconsidered in view of the objective to restrict the number of Article VI and Article XIV bodies and avoid duplication of work.
- c) Underlined the importance of the assessment of the ECA and its contribution to FAO's work in the region.
- d) Encouraged FAO to maximize synergies by collaborating with other relevant international organizations in the region in addressing the social and economic burden of malnutrition.

##### **B. Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)**

27. Mr Cathal Gallagher, Chair of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC), introduced the item and presented the report (ERC/16/9) of the 28<sup>th</sup> European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission held in Lillehammer, Norway, from 17-19 June 2015.

28. The Conference:

- a) Accepted that EIFAAC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference.



- b) Recognized EIFAAC as a good platform for research on topics such as fish migration in European inland waters, predators and invasive species.
- c) Highlighted the importance of achieving higher attendance by Members in EIFAAC sessions, in particular in view of the goal ‘to continue to develop the EIFAAC as the leading Pan-European organization for inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe’.
- d) Underscored the need to better link EIFAAC's work to important global issues such as food security and better align its mission and work plan with the SDGs.

**C. Report from the outcome of the debate of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNECE<sup>1</sup> Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry**

29. Mr Kenan Kilic, Chair of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), introduced the item and presented a summary (ERC/16/10) of EFC-related matters of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> EFC and the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry (COFFI) held in Engelberg, Switzerland, from 2-6 November 2015.

30. The Conference:

- a) Accepted that EFC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference.
- b) Expressed satisfaction with the work undertaken in the region by FAO on forest issues.
- c) Highlighted the importance of forests and sustainable forest management in contributing to many of the SDGs.
- d) Highlighted the importance of boreal forests and their role in regulating global climate, and urged FAO to explore further possibilities for enhancing its work on boreal forests.
- e) Invited the EFC and COFFI to continue enhancing their cooperation and their collaboration with relevant forestry-related organizations in the region.
- f) Welcomed the EFC recommendations for the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) and encouraged the EFC to continue providing input to the future work of the ERC and COFO.

**D. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)**

31. The Conference reviewed the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC/16/11).

32. The Conference:

- a) Welcomed and endorsed the MYPOW for the period 2016-2019, as amended,<sup>2</sup> encouraging close cooperation between ERC and the three reporting regional commissions (ECA, EFC and EIFAAC).

<sup>1</sup> UNECE: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 4 was amended to read as follows: The results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA, EFC and EIFAAC should be used as a basis for preparation of the topics of the ERC for policy discussion and adoption as well as preparation of the priorities for the region.

- b) Underlined that the MYPOW should become a genuine results-based tool to improve the functioning of the ERC and should be developed in close consultation with Members of the European region.

**E. Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe**

33. As no offers were made by the Delegations, the Chair announced that the Director-General will decide on the venue of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Regional Conference and the exact day, in consultation with the European Regional Group

**Any other business**

**A. Initiative for declaring 20 May as “World Bee Day”**

34. The delegation of Slovenia drew attention to Slovenia’s initiative to declare 20 May as “World Bee Day”, stressing the importance of bees for agriculture and food security. The Conference expressed strong support for the initiative.

**B. Information Notes**

35. The Conference had no comments on any of the Information Notes.

**Review and endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference**

36. The Regional Conference unanimously adopted the Report as presented by the Rapporteurs.

**Closure of the Conference**

37. The Director-General thanked the Government of Turkey for being an excellent host of the Conference, and all participants for their important contributions. He highlighted the main issues discussed at the Conference including the important debate on the 2030 Agenda and in particular the key role of food and agriculture. He appreciated that the Conference had recognized the results under the two Regional Initiatives as well as the broad consensus on the principles and general criteria for reviewing the offices and the coverage of FAO. He also underlined the active participation and collaborative approach of civil society organizations throughout the Conference and highlighted that the recommendations from the civil society organizations will be considered in the future work of FAO.

38. Deputy Minister, Mr Mehmet Danis on behalf of the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, thanked all the participants for their attendance and active participation in discussing about the challenges on food and agriculture. He highlighted the role that FAO plays for the food security and emphasized the importance of the cooperation among countries for sustainable land management, modern technologies, biodiversity education, gender and youth, sustainable farming and food systems, and the promotion of the International Year of Pulses.

**APPENDIX A – AGENDA****I. Introductory Items**

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteurs
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe

**II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues**

6. Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (in 2014-15) and update on its major work streams
7. Ministerial Round Table: The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region
8. Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016

**III. Programme and Budget Matters**

9. Decentralized Offices Network
10. Results from the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and update on the implementation of the PWB 2016-17 and Regional Initiatives
11. Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region

**IV. Other Matters**

12. Standing item: Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)
13. Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)
14. Report from the outcome of the debate of the joint session of the 38<sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 73<sup>rd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry
15. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)
16. Standing item: Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe
17. Any other business

Initiative for declaring 20 May as “World Bee Day”

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference

Closure of the Conference

**Information Items**

Report from regional fisheries and aquaculture commissions

The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020

Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up

**APPENDIX B - LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>
ERC/16/1 Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ERC/16/2	Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
ERC/16/3	The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region
ERC/16/4	Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016
ERC/16/5	Decentralized Offices Network
ERC/16/6	Results from the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and update on the implementation of the PWB 2016-17 and Regional Initiatives
ERC/16/6 Web Annex	Web annex: Contribution of Results in Europe and Central Asia Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in 2014-15 biennium
ERC/16/7	Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region
ERC/16/8	Report from the outcome of the debate of the 39 <sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)
ERC/16/9	Report from the outcome of the debate of the 28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)
ERC/16/10	Report from the outcome of the debate of the joint session of the 38 <sup>th</sup> European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 73 <sup>rd</sup> UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry
ERC/16/11	Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)
<b><u>INF SERIES</u></b>	
ERC/16/INF/1	Information Note
ERC/16/INF/2 Rev.1	Provisional Timetable
ERC/16/INF/3 Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
ERC/16/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
ERC/16/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
ERC/16/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 29 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe
ERC/16/INF/7	Summary report of the recommendations from Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commissions of the region
ERC/16/INF/8	The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020
ERC/16/INF/9	Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up
ERC/16/INF/10	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights Submitted by the European Union and its Member States

## **APPENDIX C – DECLARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

*Antalya, 3 May 2016*

We, the 56 representatives of small farmers, agricultural and food workers, fishing communities and fish workers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, NGOs, women and youth, representing CSOs at the local, regional, national and international levels in the region of Europe and Central Asia, came together in Antalya, Turkey, on May 2-3, 2016 to provide our contributions to the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia (May 4-5-6, 2016, Antalya, Turkey).

We appreciate the efforts of FAO in supporting the civil society and democratic grassroots movements (CSOs) to collectively strengthen the voice of the millions of small-scale food producers, workers and family farmers who are recognized by this regional FAO conference as the backbone for rural development and improvement of livelihoods, and who provide the bulk of our food. They, together with consumers also represent those most affected by unsustainable food systems. As civil society organizations, we wish to emphasize that we contribute on a daily basis to achieving the SDGs and the FAO objectives at local, national and regional levels, and we are committed to continue doing so.

Food policies at local, national, regional and global levels should relate to the realities of peoples, small-scale food producers, workers, consumers, women and youth alike. CSOs bring together democratic grassroots movements and are thus the best placed to provide direct, evidence-based knowledge of these realities. CSOs are organized to represent these various constituencies of those affected by agriculture and food-related policies, not as passive beneficiaries or mere input-providers, but as active rights' holders who are entitled to be involved in policy processes that directly affect their very lives as well as the environment in which they live, and the markets on which their livelihoods depend.

We call on this conference to address the humanitarian crises in the region that leads to the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons fleeing conflicts and situations of despair. This is the result of war, low intensive internal conflicts or deprivation of means to a dignified life, and we must ensure that their right to food and all other human rights are duly respected. We condemn the policies that have caused this war, conflicts and deprivation in the first place, and also the treatment of refugees, (forced) migrants and displaced persons that fails to respect their fundamental human rights. FAO should and can play an important role in ensuring that they are food secure, have access to natural and other productive resources, have greater access to healthy nutritious food, with special emphasis on women, children and elderly persons. Several of our CSOs are currently working in different ERC countries to support asylum seekers access to land to grow some of their own food. FAO should also facilitate and support these initiatives.

We also call on this FAO Regional Conference in Antalya to be a milestone for setting a coherent and holistic policy framework that reaches beyond business-as-usual.

The only way to overcome poverty and malnutrition and ensure food security is through a human rights' based approach that respects nature. Current international trade policies have failed dismally. However they still largely shape our food policies, despite continuous violations of human rights, persistent food and nutrition insecurity, and their dramatic consequences on our Planet. The only way to overcome this is through a new policy framework based on human rights and food sovereignty. Our current food system is socially, ecologically and economically unsustainable. We need an urgent and profound transformation of our food systems to ensure a sustainable future for people and nature in all

the countries of our region. FAO has an important role to play at regional and national level to ensure these aspects are fully implemented.

The current food system is unfair and patriarchal, so for us, it is a critical priority to develop gender sensitive policies that promote women's empowerment and gender equality, ensure a fair share of the benefits of our work, guarantee access to natural resources and means of production, and the access to decision-making spaces. It is necessary to recognize and value the role that women play in food sovereignty and nutrition. The traditional knowledge and (unpaid) daily work of women continues to ensure the protection of territories and biodiversity today as in the past. To move forward with this agenda, we highlight the importance of proposals made by the women's movement and the feminist economy, in which the sustainability of life is a central issue for the development of a sustainable future.

We therefore declare that the following priorities should duly be taken into account:

### **1. AGROECOLOGY**

We appreciate that FAO recognizes our agroecological knowledge and practices. These are essential in meeting diverse goals such as in reducing rural poverty, eradicating hunger and malnutrition, achieving sustainable agriculture and development, fighting climate change, creating decent work for youth, reducing dependence on external agro-chemicals, increasing involvement of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, especially at community level for soils, water, biodiversity conservation and women's knowledge of seed-saving and exchange.

Agroecology is, however, still far from being fully acknowledged by the FAO and Member States as the alternative to unsustainable food systems. This is often aggravated by lack of meaningful consultation with and participation of our constituencies. Our governments have been contradictory in their actions by actively promoting and sponsoring the destructive industrial agriculture model, in spite of the important body of scientific evidence that it makes a significant contribution to climate change; they have also allowed the grabbing and destruction of land, water, fish stocks and other natural resources by corporations and sovereign funds, as well as the destruction of our constituencies' livelihoods.

### **2. ACCESS TO LAND, WATER, SEEDS, FISH STOCKS AND FORESTS**

All over the world, people's access to the Commons on which they depend for their livelihoods and ways of life is being ring-fenced by (trans)national capital and state predation. This is equally true for the ECA region, where land and water grabbing, regressive laws on seeds and genetic resources, deforestation and the erosion of biodiversity and failure to manage fish stocks, create an adverse environment for the region's small-scale food producers, fishers and rural peoples. These developments run counter to the vision put forward by the CSOs of the region on the Commons that are an indivisible and indispensable part of their local food systems, living spaces, and territories rather than pure commodities. Securing access to and effective control over land, water, fish stocks and fish, seeds and forests, is therefore identified as a key priority area for CSOs in the ECA region.

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (VGSSF) are critical tools to secure the tenure rights of the region's small-scale food producers and family farmers and secure access to fish stocks and fish, given that they are anchored in a human-rights based approach, respect nature and explicitly prioritize vulnerable and marginalized groups. CSOs however still perceive a bias in which the governments of the ECA region interpret these

Guidelines, seeing them primarily as an instrument for their development cooperation work in the global South, rather than to be applied and translated into public policy “at home”.

Communities need access to knowledge and education as a common good. It is important to recognize the value of traditional knowledge that has been central to food sovereignty for centuries. Traditional knowledge must be valued and recognized at the same level as expert knowledge by governments and FAO. We need to reinforce a deeper dialogue between these two types of knowledge.

### **3. LOCAL and TERRITORIAL MARKETS**

The bulk of the food consumed in the world and in the region is produced by us, the small-scale food producers and family farmers. Most of this food is channeled through the local and territorial markets, *our markets*. They are the most important for food security and nutrition. Our markets are situated in and identified with specific territories. In this sense they are localized. They can range from village to national, or regional level; they can also be trans-boundary. They can include rural, peri-urban and urban areas. Building on our local and indigenous knowledge, they perform multiple functions within their given territories, starting with but not limited to the provision of diversified and nutritious diets, their contribution to the territorial economy and employment, to the defense of biodiversity and territorial ecosystems. Local and territorial markets are central to the realization of many SDGs. They are highly inclusive of and accessible to small scale food producers and other categories of food insecure people and provide quality food to consumers. They can be especially advantageous to producers when they involve direct “farm to fork” or “deck to dish” sales such as Community Supported Agriculture, Community Supported Fisheries and farmers’ markets. Short supply chains that eliminate or reduce the role of middlemen benefit both producers and consumers. We want these markets to be recognized and supported by appropriate public policies, and request support for increasing mapping of relevant data to make them more visible. Public procurement at local level should also prioritize access for groups of small holders. Public policies should not create opposition between food standards/food safety regulations that should be context appropriate, and the access of small-scale food producers to local and territorial markets.

More specifically to the agenda of the 30th ECA regional conference, we wish to make the following recommendations:

#### **Agenda point *Committee on World Food Security***

The following recommendations are put forward to the FAO Regional Office, Country Offices, and the governments of the ECA region. We hereby request that they:

- Recognize, take stock of, and monitor pressing issues linked to land, water, seeds, fish stocks and forests, paying special attention to the tenure rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially the region’s small-scale food producers of the various constituencies.
- Commit to the full implementation of the VGGTs in the region, with the understanding that the VGGTs are much more than a tool for establishing a land registry and that they should address all fundamental inequalities in the access to and control of natural entities.
- Ensure that CSOs in the region (and not simply big donors) are active participants and true partners in the dialogue to identify the pressing issues linked to natural resources and in the implementation of the VGGTs in the region.

Similarly, emphasis needs to be placed on using and implementing the VG SSF Guidelines, to recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries (both inland and coastal), and adopt the combined human rights and ecosystems-based approaches advocated. FAO and governments should therefore adopt policies that ensure that:

- Traditional sustainable fish(eries) knowledge and practices should be validated and decentralized (community-based), and their co-management promoted. Fishers need to be involved in data collection and analysis.
- Both professional and recreational fishers should benefit equally from management of inland fisheries. Management should be focused on optimizing fish harvesting to enable professional fishers to fish in a sustainable way, and also earn a decent livelihood and provide healthy protein to local communities. The needs of recreational fishers can also be addressed in a noncompetitive way.
- The roles of small-scale fishery workers throughout the value chain need to be recognized and respected, particularly women who make up at least 50% of the workforce. Women are often engaged in pre-harvest and post-harvest activities, and often engaged in support roles that are frequently not recognized and poorly paid.

FAO and government policies should recognize that it is not international trade, but local and territorial markets that are the most important space of food provision, and as stated above, they must be better understood, documented and supported in the work-stream of Connecting Smallholders to Markets.

#### **Agenda point *Sustainable Development Goals***

We welcome the recognition of SDGs as universal and indivisible, and therefore relevant to and implemented by and in all countries, including the developed ones. National strategies to realize them should also ensure they facilitate – rather than impede - their realization in their own and other countries and at global level. The challenges of realizing the SDGs and human rights cannot be met by focusing on the intensification of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, or by a process that provides the corporate sector with a predominant role in the SDG 17: *Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development*. Instead we urge the FAO and States to address the structural causes of our unsustainable food systems, challenge their power structures, and emphasize the transformative potential of our sustainable food systems.

We therefore wish to draw your attention to the fact that SDG 12 on sustainable production and consumption patterns, and SDG 13 on combating climate change are particularly relevant to small-scale food producers and consumers. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns and greenhouse gas emissions of the ECA region, in particular in those of its rich Member States, are a significant cause of hunger, food and nutrition insecurity both in their own and in other countries. Small-scale producers on the other hand generally use low-impact methods of production and small amounts of fossil fuels, all of which naturally mitigate climate change.

The work on SDG 2 includes not only farmers but also fishers and Indigenous Peoples. Even though SDG 14 on water and SDG 15 on territorial ecosystems are considered by FAO in their contribution to the realization of Goal 2, fishing communities and fish-workers as well as Indigenous Peoples must be recognized as key stakeholders and participants in the governance of these resources.

We acknowledge the recognition of SDG 8 on full and productive employment and decent work for all. However, we are concerned that the FAO priorities completely fail to acknowledge the contribution of agricultural and food workers to achieving decent work. The waged workers do not own or hire the land they work on and as such are a distinct group from small-scale farmers. The creation of economic growth and increasing income for employers often fails to result in the payment of a living wage to waged workers. We also stress the importance of social protection policies to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all. We call on governments to implement policies that guarantee living wages and



income to all as well as comprehensive social protection policies to lift people out of poverty and malnutrition.

FAO and governments should ensure the application of the fundamental and sector-specific ILO Conventions in order to achieve a fairer distribution of value in the food chain and thus reduce poverty in rural areas. Agricultural and fish workers need to be able to organize in independent, democratic trade unions that represent their views and to be able to bargain collectively to improve their working conditions and get paid a living wage. We urge FAO and governments to increase their efforts to eliminate forced labour in agriculture.

SDGs should provide a radical space for young people to contribute to the social and ecological transformation that is underway in many of our societies. Youth bear the responsibility for carrying forward the collective knowledge learned from their parents, elders and ancestors into the future. It is essential that the policies create the space and conditions for youth to start practicing their livelihoods, including by ensuring them access to income, resources, decent work, education and knowledge.

#### **Agenda point *International Year of Pulses***

We appreciate that the 68th United Nations General Assembly declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. We acknowledge the nutritional value and health benefits of pulses as well as their ecological benefits. Raising public awareness is important, but not sufficient. FAO should work to integrate the policies around pulses into State policies because:

- Pulses are important for human health and an essential source of food and protein for many, especially for poor people. Pulses not only create economic value but are a source of life for humans and animals.
- Pulses link nitrogen from the air to soil and plants. However if chemicals, pesticides or other ecologically devastating production techniques are used in their production, the beneficial role of pulses becomes ecologically devastating.
- Pulses also provide solutions to climate change if they are produced through agroecological techniques.
- Given the detrimental effects on food safety and food sovereignty, we strongly oppose the use of GMO technology, as well as new breeding techniques, the technology of mutation breeding used in attempts to develop new varieties of plants and animals, including pulses. We support safer and socially more inclusive methods of traditional and participatory breeding based on local knowledge.

Finally, we welcome the *FAO Strategy on Partnership with CSOs* and the re-affirmation that the views of independent CSOs are recognized and contribute to the policy, normative and technical discussions convened by FAO. We welcome the proposal to further strengthen relations between FAO and CSOs in the region and to increase the involvement of CSOs in policy-making processes and the monitoring of policy implementation that specifically concerns the region. We welcome the support the creation of a CSO Facilitation Committee to contribute to this process in a constructive way. We are committed to ensuring it will work to fulfil this mandate, and look forward to a constructive dialogue between the FAO Regional Office, FAO Sub-Regional Offices, governments and CSOs.

We also welcome you all to meet us at our second Nyéleni Europe Forum for Food Sovereignty that will be held in Cluj-Napoca in Romania from the 26 - 30 October 2016.