



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

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session

Rome, 24-28 April 2017

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. Presentations will be made on the following topics at the 156th Session of Council:

- 1) United Nations Biodiversity Conference;
- 2) Recent decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (SDGs) on the SDG Indicator Framework;
- 3) The Group of Twenty (G20);
- 4) United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF): Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017-2030, and the first Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-20 for operationalizing the Strategic Plan;
- 5) International Year of Pulses (IYP); and
- 6) Political Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 156th Session of the Council for information only.



I. United Nations Biodiversity Conference

1. The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the 2nd Meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (NP COP-MOP2) and the 8th Meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (CP COP-MOP8) were held in parallel in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016.
2. The high-level segment hosted by Mexico prior to the COP adopted the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being which encourages closer cooperation and synergies among relevant organizations of the United Nations system including *inter alia* FAO, multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations, initiatives and processes.
3. FAO contributed to the events by providing advice, delivering keynote presentations and hosting side events, as well as specific inputs and contributions showcasing the role of the agricultural sectors in managing natural resources and biodiversity in a sustainable manner, taking full account of the various ecosystem functions that underpin agricultural production. Meeting documents and decisions made ample reference to FAO instruments, policies, guidance documents and invited Contracting Parties to implement them.
4. COP13 addressed *inter alia* mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors and welcomed the platform on biodiversity and agricultural sectors launched by FAO for governments, communities of practice and other stakeholders to build bridges between sectors, identify synergies, align goals and develop integrated cross-sectoral approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. Subsequently, FAO's Governing and Statutory Bodies will have the opportunity to consider ways and means of supporting the development and implementation of guidance, measures and management tools aiming at mainstreaming biodiversity across agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

II. Recent decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (SDGs) on the SDG Indicator Framework

5. The 48th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) was held in New York, USA from 7 to 10 March 2017. The main outcome was the endorsement of the indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Statistical Commission:
 - a) agreed with the revised global indicator framework (GIF), including the proposed refinements on some indicators, clarifying that the GIF is intended only for global follow-up and review;
 - b) agreed with the proposed plan for annual refinements of the indicators and for the two comprehensive reviews to be presented to the Commission in 2020 and 2025;
 - c) agreed that the proposal to include 36 additional indicators should be part of the comprehensive review in 2020 and that it should be mindful of potential additional reporting burden on countries;
 - d) urged the Inter-Agency & Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) to accelerate the methodological development of Tier III indicators;
 - e) recommended custodian agencies, including FAO, to increase their capacity building and technical assistance efforts to ensure that countries fulfil the additional data requirements;
 - f) requested the IAEG-SDGs to develop guidelines on global SDG reporting which should foresee that custodian agencies: use whenever possible national official data, provide a list of national agencies reporting data to the international organizations, share data collection calendars, consult with concerned countries to produce and validate modelled estimates;

- g) agreed on a draft resolution pertaining to data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recommended its adoption by ECOSOC and the United Nations General Assembly.

6. The 5th Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 28 to 31 March 2017. The IAEG-SDGs approved the upgrade of four out of eleven Tier III indicators that applied to move to the Tier II category, thus enabling global reporting to begin. Two indicators, for which FAO is a custodian UN Agency, were upgraded. These are the indicator of food price anomalies (2.c.1) and the indicator of women's access to land (5.a.1).

7. The IAEG-SDGs encouraged custodian agencies to accelerate the work on Tier III indicators, yet also clarified that henceforth, the window for upgrading Tier III indicators will only open once a year at the autumn session. For the first time, it presented concrete criteria for upgrading of Tier III indicators, including testing the methodology in pilot countries with a balanced regional coverage and providing information on the involvement of National Statistical Offices in the peer-review of the proposed methodology. All this reinforces the need for FAO to aim to upgrade all its remaining Tier III indicators by the next IAEG-SDGs session in October.

8. In compliance with the UNSC request for developing guidelines on global data reporting, the IAEG-SDGs committed to submit the first draft by its next meeting. As an input to this process, Mr Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO, in the capacity of co-Chair of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, submitted a draft document suggesting principles and practices of global data reporting and data sharing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

III. The Group of Twenty (G20)

9. FAO has provided support to the Group of Twenty, known as the G20, since 2011 with technical inputs, thematic reports and proposals for concrete actions that support the provision of global public goods in the area of food security and sustainable agriculture. In response to the global food price crisis in 2007, 2008 and 2010, the G20 showed leadership through a range of initiatives designed largely as crisis or risk management responses. The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), with its inter-agency secretariat hosted in FAO, has been a very successful initiative in enhancing food market transparency. By enhancing transparency and policy coordination in international food markets, AMIS has helped to prevent unexpected price hikes and strengthen global food security.

10. In 2016, under the G20 Presidency of China, FAO engaged in a number of development issues, including the development of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supporting industrialization in African and Least Developed Countries; and drafting the G20 Comprehensive Accountability Report. In November 2016, FAO, with inputs from IFPRI and OECD, delivered a report entitled *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Agriculture* at the request of the G20 Agriculture Ministers. The report discussed the potential of ICT applications and platforms in agriculture and included specific proposals for consideration on the best possible mechanism to improve agricultural ICT exchange and cooperation.

11. In 2017, the G20 Presidency was assumed by Germany. The Meeting of the G20 Agriculture Ministers took place in Berlin on 22 January 2017. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, the role of ICTs in agriculture, research collaboration and knowledge-sharing, AMIS, and combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) all featured prominently in the Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture. The Declaration was accompanied by an Action Plan to foster implementation. FAO contributed to the process with a policy report on the global issues of concern surrounding water and agriculture.

12. Within the G20 work track on development, under the German G20 Presidency, members discuss issues related to the implementation of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda; establishing a G20-Africa Partnership, promoting rural youth employment; and fostering girls' e-skills. FAO is

providing the G20 with technical inputs on rural youth employment, agriculture, food security and nutrition, and related issues on which the Organization has a comparative advantage. A High-Level Conference “*One World – No Hunger. Future of the rural world*” will take place in Berlin on 27-28 April 2017 to promote rural youth employment and digital skills for girls, with special attention to Africa. FAO is providing the G20 with technical inputs on rural youth employment, as well as underlining the need for the G20 to pursue coordinated action to address the current severe food insecurity crises affecting Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and North-Eastern Nigeria.

IV. United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF): Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017-2030, and the first Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-20 for operationalizing the Strategic Plan

13. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), in line with ECOSOC resolution E/2015/33, held its special session on 20 January 2017 and adopted the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-30, as well as the first Quadrennial Programme of Work 2017-20 for operationalizing the Strategic Plan.

14. The Strategic Plan includes a vision, mission, trends, challenges and opportunities, six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets, as well as implementation and review frameworks and provisions for communication and outreach. The Goals and Targets are fully in line with Global Objectives on Forests, the forest-relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant global commitments. The Goals are focused on reversing the loss of forest cover, increase the area of forests under sustainable forest management and the share and contribution of products from such forests to sustainable development and livelihoods, the mobilization of resources, the promotion of governance frameworks and the enhancement of coordination, coherence and synergies. Among the many quantifiable and measurable targets, Member States committed to increase forest area by three percent worldwide by 2030 against the Forest Resources Assessment 2015 baseline. The Plan also offers an opportunity for Member States to determine, on a voluntary basis, their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets (voluntary national contributions).

15. The Strategic Plan is of particular relevance to FAO as a global organization of the UN system dealing with forests and sustainable forest management, food security and livelihoods in a cross-sectoral manner, as well as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Strategic Plan has several provisions requiring FAO’s contribution, both within the context of the UN system, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and including through support to Member Nations in implementing the Plan.

16. FAO contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan according to the guidance given by the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (June 2014) and the 155th Session of the FAO Council (December 2016), and looks forward to receiving further guidance from Members to support the implementation of the Plan and its four-year Programme of Work.

V. International Year of Pulses (IYP)

17. The closing ceremony of the International Year of Pulses (IYP) was hosted by the Government of Burkina Faso in Ouagadougou from 10 to 11 February 2017. The Ouagadougou Declaration recommends that the UN General Assembly recognize an International Day of Pulses on 10 February.

18. The 2016 sessions of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), stressed the important contribution of pulses to food security, nutritional health and environmental protection and encouraged governments and FAO to engage in awareness raising activities and support appropriate policies for improved production and consumption of pulses

beyond 2016. In response to the 155th Council recommendations and based on consultations held during the IYP 2016, FAO is putting forth the following legacy activities proposals for consideration:

- a) *Pulses Action Network* – to be included in the work programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition¹, under the leadership of FAO Members;
- b) *Compilation of agricultural practices including pulses crops in Sub-Saharan Africa*: to support pulses cultivation and utilization in smallholder farms in Africa;
- c) *Publication on under-utilized pulse species* that will compile information on agronomy, nutrition and trade of under-utilized pulse species;
- d) *Revision of FAO's pulses statistics*.

VI. Political Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development

19. FAO is fully integrated into regional mechanisms of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the 36th Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016, the Member States adopted resolution 700 (XXXVI), called “Mexico Resolution,” which established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

20. The first meeting of this body will be held from 26 to 28 April 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico. This multi-stakeholder forum will bring together Latin American and Caribbean governments who are members of the forum, members of parliament, the United Nations System, financial institutions and development banks, regional and sub-regional integration organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia.

21. In this regard, FAO is preparing a document in close collaboration with other UN Agencies to foster the political dialogue of the members of the forum in order to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 9 and 14. This document will be presented to the countries as a contribution to their national actions, especially those that opted to present the national voluntary reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

22. FAO is a custodian agency of 21 indicators and, through the UN Country Teams, is supporting their implementation at national level. In the region, 8 countries have already established a mechanism that supports a comprehensive approach towards achieving the SDGs. It also aims at strengthening national capacities to implement public policies and report on the progress made. As part of its national contribution, FAO regularly updates data for measuring food insecurity at national level and outlines main challenges for the countries.

¹ The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition was proclaimed by the UN under the normative framework agreed at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new direction in global nutrition action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and reduce the burden of diet-related non communicable diseases in all age groups.