



Draft Agenda

Informal consultation Meeting for Europe and Central Asia 16-17 May 2019, Budapest, Hungary

Background

The Informal consultation Meeting for Europe and Central Asia provides a platform on which the FAO Regional Office and Member countries can interact between sessions of the European Regional Conference and facilitates consultation, considering the limited presence of FAO at 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 purpose of the informal consultations has been:

- 1) To facilitate an exchange of views among all Members of the European 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
- 3) To review priorities in the Region in preparation for the Regional Conference

Scope of Informal Consultation

The FAO programme in the European and Central Asia Region for 2018/19 is guided by the results from the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Europe, May 2018 and based on the priorities three regional initiatives are the key programmatic umbrella for the implementation of the work-programme in the Region.¹ In addition, food security and nutrition as well as gender and climate change have been embedded in the three initiatives as cross-cutting issues, e.g. through nutrition-sensitive agriculture and social protection and sustainable food and agriculture. Using the RIs as programmatic umbrella to increase focus and impact, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) have been under formulation with increased focus to enhance impact of FAO's work at country level and to align to the national 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 41st Session of the European Commission on Agriculture will be held in Budapest in September 2019 and 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.

The ongoing UN Development System Reform process means significant changes to the setup, leadership, accountability mechanisms and capacities of the whole UN development system;

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/mw908en/mw908en.pdf> B. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Region, para. 23-24

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, centered around a strategic country plan - developed in close consultation with governments - and led by an empowered UN Resident Coordinator, to support Member States to guide system-wide actions and bring greater transparency and accountability for results.²

The discussion and results from the Informal Consultation and the ECA Session will guide the workplanning 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 offer 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 • (Vice-)Chair of the European Regional Group
<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	
13.30-14.00	<p>The secretariat will present the Regional gender strategy and a short paper outlining the status of workplan implementation of 2018-19, lessons learned and suggestions for future priorities in the Region taking into consideration the strong focus of supporting the SDGs at country level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
<u>Session 3 - Workshop</u>	
Review of the progress in the Region during the 2018-19 biennium in line with SDGs, Paris Agreement and ICN2 and priorities for 2020-21 and beyond	
14.00-15.30	The session would allow the Members of the region to split in Break Out Sessions to discuss more thematically on-going and future priorities and to reflect on the countries needs of the Region.

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A) How to further enhance support to smallholders and family farms through an integrated and cross-sectoral approach at the country level? • Group B) How to transition to more inclusive and efficient agri-food systems through enhancing agrifood trade policy environment, meeting global food safety and quality standards and support access to domestic and export markets? • Group C) How to build resilience to climate change and natural disasters for sustainable food systems? • Group D) How to address food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition to achieve SDG 2? Challenges and opportunities for accelerating progress in Europe and Central Asia. <p>Coffee will be served during the sessions.</p>
<i>Plenary: Outcomes of the Workshops on Review of the priorities for the Region for the 2020-21 and beyond</i>	
15.30-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitators of Group A, B, C, D
16.00-16.30	Coffee break
Session 4 - Plenary	
Regional Technical Commissions' contribution to the Regional Priorities	
16.30-17.30	<p>The 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 between the Executive Committees of the various Commissions on common topics, i.e. such as the SDGs and Climate Change and the way forward to facilitate exchanges between 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 and EFC</i>

17 May 2019

Session 5 – Plenary

The repositioned United Nations development system in the Region: implication and opportunities for FAO within the support to the SDGs

09.00-11.00	<p>The secretariat will provide an overview of the status of the 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 support to SDG nationalization processes and monitoring in the region. The Members may express their views and reflect from their point of view in order to increase coherence and approach at the country and regional level.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN reform for a repositioned United Nations development system at country level: implication and opportunities for FAO <i>FAO/Other</i> • Review the progress on FAO's support to SDG nationalization and monitoring in the region <i>FAO</i> • Country case studies on the implementation of selected SDG - <i>follow up to the 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 21-22 March 2019</i>
<u>Panel discussion</u>	
11.00-12.00	<p>After the presentations representatives of Member States and CSO participants will exchange their views in an interactive moderated panel discussion and will provide their recommendations on the future scope of Regional Initiatives as well as opportunities on partnership involvement to increase progress on implementing SDGs, particularly SDG2 in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion with a moderator and panellists from selected countries of the region and CSO participant
12.00-12.30	Coffee break
<u>Session 6 – Plenary</u> Draft Annotated Agenda for the 41st ECA Draft provisional annotated agenda for the 32nd ERC	
12.30-13.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Annotated Agenda for the 41st ECA Introduction of the item by the ECA Secretary Discussion and views by the Members • Proposals for agenda items for the 32nd 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