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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  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## COUNCIL

### Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 28 September - 2 October 2009

### SUMMARIES OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES HELD IN 2008-2009

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1. As for previous sessions of Council, this document is submitted to the membership for information. It should be noted, however, that the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) contemplates a strengthened role for future Regional Conferences, which “... will have an important role to play in governance for: policy coherence for development in their region; discussion of global priorities as they related to the region; providing inputs to the Council and Conference on FAO priorities and in discussing such issues as intra-regional trade and investment. This role may vary from region to region. They will become a full part of the governance structure, feeding into the Conference and Council”<sup>1</sup>

2. Other IPA actions regarding Regional Conferences state that, “Changes in lines of reporting, functions and ways of working will be introduced immediately in practice and followed up by Basic Text changes, including changing the status of the Regional Conferences to Committees of the FAO Conference” (IPA Action 2.52)

(a) Functions will include:

(i) Develop issues for regional policy coherence and regional perspective on global policy issues and regulation – presenting its report to the FAO Conference;

(ii) Review and advise on the FAO programme for the region and the overall FAO programme as it affects the region – presenting its report to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees (IPA Action 2.53)

(b) Ways of working – Regional Conferences will:

(i) be convened normally once in every biennium on the decision of the Members of FAO from the region and with full consultation among members on agendas, formats, dates and duration and need for the Conference;

(ii) appoint a rapporteur;

(iii) the Chair and rapporteur will remain in office between sessions and the Chair, or if not available the rapporteur, will present the Regional Conference report to the FAO Council and Conference (with consideration also by the Programme and Finance Committees as appropriate) in line with the new cycle of governing body oversight and decision making for the programme and budget process;

(iv) to the extent possible, hold sessions in tandem with other intergovernmental regional bodies concerned with agriculture;

(v) papers for Regional Conferences will be focused with actionable recommendations (IPA, Action 2.54).

Introduce Basic Text changes for functions, reporting lines, etc “(IPA, Action 2.55).

3. The IPA also includes a number of actions regarding the reform of the programming; budgeting and results based monitoring systems which impact upon the role of the Regional Conferences. More specifically, under the new programme and budget cycle, in “Year 1 of the biennium”, “the Regional Conferences will with respect to their Regions, review and make recommendations on: (i) FAO performance in contributing to results against performance indicators, including any pertinent evaluations; (ii) priorities and results planned under the Medium Term Plan, and suggest adjustments for the next biennium; and (iii) policy issues for the region to be considered at global level or through additional action at regional level” (IPA, Action 3.8).

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 25 of the Immediate Plan of Action

**TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST**  
**Cairo, Egypt, 1–5 March 2008**

**General Recommendations**

For the Attention of Member States

The Conference called upon Member States of the Region to:

1. Allocate adequate resources to control the Black Stem Rust of wheat known as Ug99 and to develop disease-resistant wheat varieties.
2. Increase their investments in agriculture.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference requested FAO to:

3. Provide the necessary technical support within the framework of the Global Rust Initiative recently launched by FAO in collaboration with ICARDA and other concerned organizations.
4. Provide technical assistance to Member States for promoting agriculture investments.
5. Continue its efforts for the establishment of the Animal Health Commission for the Near East and North Africa (AHCNENA).
6. Extend the positive experience of its assistance to Syria, Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in formulating strategies and action plans for drought mitigation and early warning to other countries in the Region.

**Climate Change: Implications for Agriculture in the Near East**

For the Attention of Member States

The Conference called upon Member States of the Region to:

7. Promote agriculture as a key player in the reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gases, including building the capacity of agricultural personnel and decision-makers.
8. Develop policies and legislation to enhance natural resource management practices that can lead to mitigation and adaptations to climate change.
9. Consider collection, exchange and dissemination of geo-referenced and tabular climate-change data and statistics to monitor soil carbon, and overall carbon accounting.
10. Identify activities with the potential to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases, increase the resilience of production systems against vagaries of the current climate and the threats of climate change, and improve adaptation capacities.

11. Optimize the utilization of genetic engineering tools to develop heat and drought tolerant crop varieties in collaboration among countries of the Region and with FAO and other international organizations.
12. Support international efforts to reduce the magnitude of climate change and to urge the signatories of the Kyoto Agreement to abide by its clauses and to call upon those States that have not yet signed this Agreement to sign it.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference requested FAO to:

13. Prepare studies specific to the Region that would examine the possible impact of climate change on agriculture, food security and natural resources at the regional and national levels.
14. Assist member countries in the identification, development and promotion of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon, while contributing to sustainable development.
15. Work with concerned international, regional and national organizations to improve the use of tools to assess the impact of weather conditions on crops and the use of weather and climate forecasts in farm-level decision-making.
16. Provide technical assistance to member countries to study how small farmers could benefit from opportunities within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism (including carbon tax).
17. Promote integration of climate change, biodiversity conservation, and desertification control into natural resources management programmes and activities in the Region.

The Conference adopted the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting with the following recommendations:

**Near East Agriculture Towards 2050: Prospects and Challenges**

For the attention of Member States

The Meeting called upon Member States of the Region to:

18. Use the preliminary results presented in this study as a starting point to develop their own more detailed country studies based on available data and local expertise.
19. Hold national expert consultations to review country-level assumptions and results. This could also be expanded to the conduct of comprehensive national studies that would involve a more exhaustive data collection exercise and provide a more solid base for future projections.
20. Invest in agricultural production projects in countries of the Region that are endowed with adequate natural resources, such as Sudan, Libya and others.

For the attention of FAO

The Meeting requested FAO to:

21. Ensure that future versions of this study include further analyses regarding alternative policy scenarios and their implications for the Region and to cover additional aspects such as the

impact of political uncertainty in some parts of the Region and the implications of the increased consumption of animal products on the limited rangeland and water resources.

22. Support, within its available resources, member countries that might be interested in developing more detailed country studies of the prospects for their agricultural sectors by 2030 or 2050, including extending the country coverage to other Near East countries not included in this study and providing the necessary country-level data.

23. Organize regional expert consultations on key policy issues highlighted by this study, with particular focus on bioenergy use and of climate change.

### **Socio-Economic Impacts of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) in the Near East with Particular Emphasis on Avian Influenza**

#### For the attention of Member States

The Meeting called upon Member States of the Region to:

24. Consider establishing mechanisms to encourage coordination among neighbouring and trading countries in order to achieve TAD management, with all member countries developing and rehearsing contingency plans, including communication plans, to reduce the impact of disease incursions and reduce market shocks.

25. Increase the use of risk assessment procedures and multilateral decision-making, following WTO rules, particularly in terms of acceptable procedures for closure and penning of animal product movements.

26. Develop closer public-private partnerships to regulate and enforce legislation across the marketing chains to facilitate production of affordable and safe food.

27. Strengthen national livestock statistics, including trade and animal diseases and to consider establishing a regional TADs early warning system through sharing this information with other Near East and neighbouring countries and with concerned international organizations, such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

#### For the attention of FAO

The Meeting requested FAO to:

28. Facilitate analysis of sector trends in updating disease control plans that reflect reports and statistical material developed by FAO and to always use the same regional and sub-regional geographic country coverage classifications.

29. Increase efforts to share expertise in contingency planning with Member States and support sharing of plans among all countries within the Region, so outbreaks can be contained quickly and with minimal socio-economic damage.

30. Support member countries in conducting national and regional risk assessments of TAD spread, including support to human capacity building and training.

31. Assist member countries to setting clear performance targets in order to develop a level of animal disease control that will safeguard human and animal health and wealth.

## **The Outcomes of the Regional Commissions and Other Relevant Regional Meetings in the Near East**

32. The Meeting called upon all the regional Commissions and relevant Regional Meetings to take into consideration the various issues raised by the Meeting in their future work.

### **Global and Regional Emergency Issues**

#### For the attention of FAO

The Meeting requested FAO to:

33. Pay particular attention to requirements for capacity building.
34. Continue to coordinate closely with other UN agencies.
35. Strengthen capacity for plant pest emergency management and animal diseases.
36. Place more emphasis on the establishment of early warning systems.
37. Closely monitor the impact of emergency intervention programmes.
38. Broaden its consultation with the national sectoral authorities/departments concerned in the implementation of FAO emergency projects in Iraq.
39. Accelerate moves to re-establish a presence within Iraq, in coordination with other UN agencies.

### **Proposed List of Topics to be Considered at the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East**

The Conference requested the Secretariat to submit FAO/headquarters for consideration and possible inclusion in the Conference Agenda for the 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East:

40. Trans-boundary plant pests and diseases with emphasis on the Black Stem Rust (Ug99).
41. Water desalination for agricultural use.
42. Climate change and natural resource management in the Near East:
  - model assessments at national and regional levels; and
  - mitigation and adaptation measures;
43. Valuing rangelands for their ecosystem and livelihood services: holistic analysis including their role in carbon sequestration and carbon tax.
44. Knowledge and information management networks/systems for rural and agricultural development in the Near East: recent experiences and lessons learned.
45. Agricultural research for development: institutions, resource as well as regional and global experience.

### **Date and Place of the 30<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for the Near East**

46. The Conference welcomed the invitation extended by the Government of Sudan to host the Thirtieth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. The Conference requested that the Director-General of FAO takes this submission into consideration when deciding on the date and place of the coming Conference, in consultation with Member Governments of the Region.

**THIRTIETH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN**

**Brasilia, Brazil, 14 – 18 April 2008**

**Report on FAO activities (2006-2007) aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit target**

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

47. Urged the countries of the Region to increase their efforts to achieve food security.
48. Called on all the countries of the Region to improve the food security of indigenous and other ethnic groups.
49. Underlined the need to formulate long-term agricultural and rural development strategies, with a territorial approach and with participatory public policies.
50. Stressed the importance of implementing public policies that were specifically directed towards family farming.
51. Drew attention to the opportunity for the capitalization of agriculture that resulted from the process of rapidly increasing agricultural commodity prices.
52. Urged the countries of the Region to implement immediate assistance actions for Haiti.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

53. Requested that FAO continue to give priority to the fight against chronic undernutrition and to the eradication of child malnutrition.
54. Requested that FAO continue to work in support of the “Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative” and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
55. Suggested that FAO provide technical support to the formulation of long-term agricultural and rural development strategies, with a territorial approach and participatory policies.
56. Recommended that FAO give priority support to the building of national capacity to respond to emergencies resulting from natural disasters.
57. Urged FAO to significantly broaden and intensify its support activities to Haiti, including the promotion and facilitation of South-South cooperation.

**Reports of the Regional Commissions: Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) and Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGLAC)**

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

58. Requested that the LACFC pursue lines of work on payment for environmental services, sustainable forest management, including the management of forest plantations, the prevention of wildfires and the management of forest statistics, including information on environmental variables.

**Matters arising from the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of FAO**

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

59. Took note of the organizational changes that resulted from the decentralization of the Organization in the context of its Reform.

60. Stated that, in the framework of FAO Reform, the Regional Conferences should assume more relevant functions, as an integral part of the governing structure.

**Food safety: Effective participation of developing countries in Codex Alimentarius meetings**

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

61. Urged the countries to redouble their efforts to participate in all Codex activities.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

62. Expressed its deep concern over the low participation of the countries of the Region in the process of drafting Codex standards.

**Pressing global and regional issues: Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI)**

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

63. Recommended strengthening and deepening cooperation between countries.



For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

64. Requested that FAO map hunger and malnutrition in the Region and supported the FAO proposal to set up an Observatory of Food and Nutritional Security.

**Round Table: Follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development – ICARRD (Porto Alegre, Brazil, March 2006)**For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

65. Stressed that FAO should continue to promote follow-up to the ICARRD in the Region.

66. Underlined the fundamental role of policy dialogue between governments and civil society.

**Policies to promote and/or strengthen the participation and joint action of public and private actors in rural development**For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

67. Underscored the need to introduce coordinated actions to ensure local populations had access to food.

68. Stressed the importance of combined public and private action.

69. Stated that this contrast required other forms of development indicator more representative of social and environmental conditions.

70. Recognized that a combination of economic growth with more equitable distribution of income was a necessary condition for overcoming hunger.

71. Underscored the need to introduce coordinated actions to ensure local populations had access to food, beyond any distributive effects that economic growth could generate.

72. Stressed that there was a strong cultural element in the process of improving food security.

73. Indicated the need for state policy with a long term horizon and more effective actions to improve production, reduce vulnerability and eradicate rural poverty.

74. Indicated the need for combined public and private actions to reduce the high costs of transaction.

75. Stressed the need to reduce the high costs of intermediation for the insertion of family farmers into market chains.

76. Emphasized the importance of agricultural insurance and the relevance of technical assistance plans for the production and marketing of the products of family farming.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

77. Expressed its agreement with the background document on the importance of family farming for food security, agricultural production and scope for the alleviation of rural poverty.

**Transboundary diseases**

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

78. Emphasized the need for a regional approach to the prevention, control and eradication of transboundary diseases.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

79. Underlined the need for FAO documents to clearly and unequivocally indicate the diseases that were not present in the Region.

80. Requested that FAO and other international institutions promote and provide technical support to cooperation between countries in transboundary diseases.

**Opportunities and challenges of biofuel production for food security and the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean**

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

81. Debated the many implications of biofuel development for the fight against hunger and poverty, and for environmental sustainability.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

82. Recognized the complexity of the issues and the need for further examination to maximize the possible opportunities of bioenergy production.

**Other matters**For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

83. Recommended that FAO broaden and strengthen its cooperation activities directed towards building phytosanitary capacity.
84. Requested that FAO, conduct a study on increases in the prices of agricultural inputs.

**Date and place of the Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Conference:

85. Noted with satisfaction the offer of the Delegation of Panama to host the 31st FAO Regional Conference, to be held in 2010. The offer was unanimously endorsed by the delegations present. It also requested that the Director-General take this recommendation into account when deciding the place and date of the next Regional Conference, after consultation with the Government of Panama.

## **TWENTY-FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA**

**Nairobi, Kenya, 16 - 20 June 2008**

### **Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2006 – 2007 (ARC/08/2) and Global and Regional Emergency Issues**

The Conference:

86. Commended FAO for its active role in support of African Agriculture, particularly in the NEPAD-CAADP implementation and expressed appreciation for FAO support to many countries in their efforts to improve policy management for agricultural productivity and food security.

87. Acknowledged FAO's appeal for soil erosion control and other sustainable land and water management interventions in addition to countries committing effective budgets to national agricultural development initiatives that FAO can complement with expertise and other means.

### **Scaling up Agricultural Water Management : A Priority for the Implementation of the first Pillar of CAADP**

For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, African Union Commission and NEPAD

The Conference:

88. Recommended an increase in productivity of existing and expanding or developing micro, small and large irrigation schemes.

89. Urged the application of the principle of sustainability to all phases of the infrastructure development process.

90. Stressed the need for investment in research on agricultural water management, both adaptive and basic at national and regional levels, with the view to improve water productivity and adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts.

91. Recommended the adoption of a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs.

92. Urged the promotion of joint development of shared river and lake basins as a means of regional integration, as was the case for the Senegal River Basin, the initiatives of CEN-SAD and UEMOA in the Office du Niger area in Mali.

93. Recognized the rapid contraction of Lake Chad and stressed the need for initiatives on reversing it.

94. Recognized the need to promote rain water harvesting to inter alia recharge groundwater resources for multiple uses.

95. Recommended the scaling up of sustainable development and management of inland valleys where an important potential for rice production still lie untapped.

96. Recommended the creation of an enabling political and institutional environment for public-private partnership.

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

97. Commended FAO for the preparation and presentation of the document and accepted the recommendations on priority investment options therein contained.
98. Recommended the adoption of a holistic approach to water management, including water use strategies at basin level so as to integrate and cater for all competing needs.

**Intra-Africa Trade: Issues, Challenges and Implications for Food Security and Poverty Alleviation**For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and African Union Commission

The Conference:

99. Recognized that intra-African trade can provide additional opportunities to those Africa has in the global environment and welcomed the decision of the December 2006 Abuja Summit on Food security to identify and promote strategic commodities which meet Africa's food security and trade objectives, including trade within the region.
100. Urged countries, with FAO assistance, to address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra-African exchanges.
101. Considered the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) process to be of such great importance for Africa that the region needs to benefit from through consultation among all countries with regard to the best steps forward.
102. Urged countries to adopt long term measures to address the problem of soaring food prices, such as the reduction or suppression of import taxes and bans on exports, etc.
103. Recognized that solving Africa's food insecurity problems would require an enhancement of intra-regional trade through strengthened Regional Integration Arrangements (RIAs).
104. Recognized the importance of effective communication network in the Region to enhance intra African trade between countries and sub-regions.
105. Regretted that some of the declarations and resolutions made during high level gatherings like the Maputo and Abuja Summits were not implemented.
106. Recommended implementation of the Maputo and Abuja resolutions, which included emphasis on regional infrastructure, to boost African agricultural and economic development and intra African trade.
107. Recommended reforms that will bring down the costs for doing business.
108. Recommended the strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework.
109. Recommended continuation of ongoing reform of MFN tariffs and NTBs, especially the roadblocks and checkpoints that impede cross-border trade.
110. Recommended reduction of tariff among African countries, especially within customs unions.

111. Recommended facilitation of trade at customs points, simplification of customs procedures, and improvement of trade logistics.

For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

112. Requested FAO to assist countries address trade difficulties and increase investment to enhance agricultural production and productivity in Africa, which can increase the current level of intra-African exchanges.

**Round Table Meeting on Africa's Follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security : Challenges of Climate Change and Bio-energy**

For the Attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and African Union Commission

The Conference:

113. Noted that Africa appears to be the most dislocated region and needs to make the most strenuous efforts to combat the impact of the food crisis.

114. Emphasized the full support of Africa for the Declaration adopted at the High-Level Conference.

115. Recognized that the primary responsibility for addressing the crisis and ensuring sustainable growth rests with African countries which should allocate at least 10 percent of their own resources to boost investment in agricultural development in conformity with the Maputo Declaration.

116. Recommended that African Heads of State should be reminded at the July 2008 African Union Summit in Egypt of their 2003 Maputo summit commitment to invest at least 10 percent of their national budgets in agricultural development.

117. Emphasized the need for effective engagement of Ministries of Finance and Economic Development in order to ensure that African countries reinforce their efforts towards allocating and disbursing more of their own resources as soon as possible.

118. Noted FAO's appeal for Member countries to be at the forefront of securing resources for key national food security interventions in the spirit of the Maputo Declaration.

119. Recommended that the assistance to be realized through the Rome pledges be aligned to the CAADP pillars, which had been accepted both by the African Union Commission and its partners.

120. Appealed for international solidarity of oil producing countries to mitigate the high cost of fertilizers and recommended the use of African raw materials, such as phosphates, to establish fertilizer plants in Africa's various subregions.

121. Urged countries to contribute to the Africa Fertilizer Fund Mechanism and follow up on other key recommendations of the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit.

122. Recognized the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, subregional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research.

123. Recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade.
124. Recognized the importance of partnership between the public and private sectors in agricultural development and the need to strengthen it in the search for solutions to the current food crisis.
125. Emphasized the need for strengthening cooperation between the African Union, Regional and Subregional Organizations in Africa and the Permanent Representatives in Rome to enhance African participation in various negotiations, especially in the framework of FAO Conference Committee on the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) process.
126. Urged African Union Member States to establish an African Fund for Agricultural Development through the African Union with mechanisms that will strengthen the CAADP process with the assistance of development partners.

#### For the Attention of FAO

The Conference:

127. Requested for timely clarification from FAO on the framework and allocation of the resources for the activities.
128. Appreciated FAO's offer to assist countries in setting clear priorities for the various interventions envisaged, including long term support in preparing projects for such priorities in order to secure local and external funding.
129. Recognized the need for the use of appropriate technology and results of applied research from national, subregional and regional research institutions to improve agricultural production and appealed for more effective funding of agricultural research.
130. Recommended more information exchange on the production and post-harvest activities in the different sub-regions to ensure more effective use of surpluses through regional trade.
131. Recommended that the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference be condensed into a statement to be presented to the African Union and the G8 by the Chairman of the Conference with support from FAO and Member Countries.
132. Recommended continuous contact between the Chairman of the Conference (Kenya) and member countries, with support from the Secretariat, to promote the implementation of the resolutions/recommendations of the Conference, and to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness.

#### For the Attention of Development Partners

The Conference:

133. Called for timely release of the pledged external resources to ensure effective field interventions.

#### **NGO/CSO/FO Consultation**

The Conference:

134. Noted the recommendations of the African Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Farmers Organizations (FO) meetings held 21 - 23 May 2008 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and 16 - 20 June 2008 in Nairobi, Kenya respectively.

## **TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE**

**Innsbruck, Austria, 26 - 27 June 2008**

### **Report on FAO activities in the Region 2006-07 with a focus on the achievement of the World Food Summit targets and the Millennium Development Goals, and future priorities**

#### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

135. Welcomed the establishment by the UN Secretary-General of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, and noted that the EU is determined to play its full part in implementing the Declaration adopted by acclamation in Rome on 5 June 2008 at the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security.

#### For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

136. Highlighted the importance of FAO technical assistance in the Western Balkans, Turkey and in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

137. Stressed that FAO assistance to rural development in the Western Balkans supports the aspirations of these countries to EU Membership, and strengthens the capacities of governments to deliver public goods for agricultural growth.

138. Expressed support for the FAO initiative to review experience and assist in increase of ODA by new EU Member States.

139. Agreed with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation that a more programmatic approach should be taken by FAO towards the design of the field programme, including an assessment of the impact of actions taken.

140. Welcomed the formulation of National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks (NMTPFs), as a basis for FAO country work, with the close involvement of governments, civil society and the international community and the leadership of FAO's decentralized offices.

### **FAO and adaptation to climate change in the European Region**

#### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

141. Underlined the importance of climate change issues and recognized the particular role of the European region in both climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

142. Highlighted the complexity of causes of climate change and of the assessment of its impacts on agriculture, forestry and water management and noted that agriculture, forestry and fisheries have the potential to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, through (i) labelling of products with their corresponding climate change impacts, (ii) organic farming, and (iii) the diversification of agriculture.



143. Discussed strategic responses to climate change through, on one hand, further deregulation of trade and agricultural production, referring to unfair competition from countries with high subsidies for agriculture and barriers to trade, and on the other, through new instruments to deal with climate change impacts.

144. Urged that further studies be focused on measures for mitigation of greenhouse gases and noted that specific adaptation measures would be required to alleviate climate change impacts on farm costs, incomes, employment and migration.

#### For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

145. Urged FAO to set a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for activities in this field, including analyses of climate change causes, policy scenarios and outlook studies with regional focus, particularly with regard to adaptation measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and recommended that FAO develop a special integrated programme on climate change issues and collaborate on this subject with other specialized United Nations agencies such as UNFCCC, IPCC and GEF.

146. Recognized the need for additional resources for the implementation of a special programme on climate change issues, and endorsed the proposal to establish an FAO intergovernmental trust fund for these activities.

147. Recommended that FAO should include the East European and Central Asian region in its analyses, in close collaboration with the European Commission on this subject.

148. Recommended that a specialized FAO Climate Change Assessment Unit should initiate the elaboration of a region-specific “Strategy on FAO activities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation” and urged FAO to organize workshops and a high-level meeting on climate change impacts and adaptation measures for Europe.

#### **Update on the High-Level Conference on World Food Security held in Rome in June 2008**

#### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

149. Noted the links between shortages of staple grains on international markets, soaring food prices and climate change as well as the use of food commodities for the production of biofuels and stressed the impact of food prices on food security in low-income food deficit and importing countries.

150. Agreed that the present global food crisis had structural roots and that an increase of investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, low in recent decades, was needed, combined with a new approach to sustainable agriculture.

#### For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

151. Took note of FAO’s support to selected countries under the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices.

## **Matters arising from the 34th Session of the FAO Conference**

### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

152. Noted that recent increases in food prices have emphasized how essential it is to have an effective FAO, which indicates the importance of FAO Reform.

153. Stressed the importance of FAO within the United Nations system, and supported the continuation of reforms to strengthen the comparative advantages of FAO and its collaboration with the other UN Rome-based organizations.

### For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

154. Welcomed the Director-General's leadership in the Reform process and commended senior management for its active participation in the Reform.

155. Expressed support for IEE recommendation 4.11 on a strengthened role for Regional Conferences and the inclusion of Regional Conferences within the governance structure of FAO to perform an oversight role in the regions.

156. Suggested that Regional Conference Chairs be appointed and remain in office between sessions and present the Regional Conference report to the FAO Council and the Conference.

157. Expressed support for IEE Recommendations 4.7 and 4.8 under which the Regional Conferences would report to the FAO Conference on political and technical matters and to the Council regarding budget and finances.

158. Urged the Council to take into account the reports of Regional Conferences on work priorities as well as programmes/budgetary matters in its recommendations to the Conference and in the biennial programme of work.

159. Noted that ERC is the only Regional Conference which has a body, the ECA, for the preparation of the agenda and recommendations and stressed that this experience be shared with other regions which may consider establishing a similar body.

## **Promotion of traditional regional agricultural products and food: A further step towards sustainable rural development**

### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

160. Agreed that, in addition to safety/hygiene and nutrition, geographic origin (Geographic Indication (GI), protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI)) were an important indicator of food quality, and regulations were necessary to protect both consumers and farmers.

161. Acknowledged the importance of networks such as INFOODS, the European Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR) and the Food Composition Database Network for Central and Eastern Europe (CEECFOODS), for the documentation of local foods and for the provision of data on nutrient composition.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

162. Noted that FAO's interest in the topic of traditional and quality production in the European region was timely, welcomed the report and FAO's activities in this area and acknowledged that this is an important area for FAO assistance in the Region.

163. Recommended that FAO integrate issues of traditional food into all areas of work and initiate research and technical assistance on this issue.

164. Acknowledged the important support by FAO and its partners in the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition and specific quality tied to geographic origin, and recommended strengthening both.

165. Recommended that FAO provide technical assistance in the area of quality linked to geographic origins.

**Date, place and main theme(s) of the Twenty-seventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe**

The Conference:

166. Agreed that the next (27th) Regional Conference for Europe in 2010 be held in Armenia. The offer from Azerbaijan to host the 28th Regional Conference in 2012 will be conveyed to the Director-General for decision, in consultation with Members of the Region.

**Any other business**

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

167. Noted the proposal made by the Delegation of Kyrgyzstan that the name of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe be changed to "FAO Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia" and was informed that it would be forwarded to the FAO Council for consideration.

**TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC**

**Bangkok, Thailand, 26-31 March 2009**

**Emerging issues and priorities on food and agricultural development in the Region  
(APRC/08/5)**

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

168. Highlighted the important role of small-scale farmers in meeting food security objectives and noted the particularly harsh impacts the current economic crisis was having on smallholders and landless farm labourers.

169. Cautioned that bioenergy production should not imperil food security or further marginalize the poor.

170. Paid special attention to the special needs of small island developing states and developing countries with limited land for a balanced food security and energy security.

171. Cautioned against rising protectionism and non-tariff trade barriers.

172. Urged Governments and international organizations to seek mechanisms for reducing the volatility and unpredictability of food and agricultural commodities.

173. Encouraged member countries and international organizations, to consider the establishment of regional or global food reserves in anticipation of future perturbations.

174. Urged developed countries to meet commitments they had made to increase development assistance in agriculture in a timely manner.

175. Encouraged expanded collaboration through the South-South Cooperation framework.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

176. Encouraged member countries to develop early warning systems for rapid response to disasters and emergencies.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference requested FAO to:

177. Assist member countries in formulating and implementing practical climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

178. Support the development of early warning systems.

179. Promote practical crop insurance schemes and social safety nets, in particular targeting small farmers.

**Policies, strategies and technical options for coping with water scarcity (APRC/08/2)**For the attention of Governments

The Conference encouraged:

180. Member countries to develop systemic national responses to water scarcity that address policy, institutional, legal, economic and technical obstacles, adopt more effective and strategically focused investment strategies in water management, assess the potential of international trade to offset water scarcity, and enhance regional cooperation.

181. Member countries to focus on water-use efficiency and agricultural productivity along the value chain from farm to market, including on-farm water management, irrigation system performance, improved governance and adjustments of national water and irrigation policies.

182. Member countries to boost the productivity of rainfed agriculture by providing incentives for the adoption of practices that minimize water risks, such as water harvesting, and by developing and promoting the use of seeds tolerant to flooding, salinity and drought.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference requested FAO to:

183. Strengthen AQUASTAT in the Region.

184. Assist member countries in developing comprehensive policy and strategic frameworks for coping with water scarcity.

185. Give high priority to assisting member countries in developing policies, strategies and capacities for coping with water scarcity, and to strengthen its own capacity and resources, accordingly, in the Regional Office, and also in Headquarters.

186. Launch the regional initiative on re-inventing irrigation and agricultural water governance in Asia and the Pacific.

**Global and regional emergency issues: transboundary animal diseases in the Region and looking at the environmental factors affecting its occurrence (APRC/08/6)**For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

187. Encouraged member to enhance regional cooperation in addressing the threats of transboundary animal diseases.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

188. Requested FAO to facilitate regional cooperation and networking, work to harmonize legislation, regulations and control measures, and strengthen bio-security and other efforts to combat the spread of diseases and invasive species.

**Agribusiness and competitive agro-industries in the context of globalization and free trade (APRC/08/3)**

For the attention of FAO

The Conference urged FAO to:

189. (i) conduct inter-ministerial dialogues to identify priority actions for fostering the development of agro-industries; (ii) encourage public-private partnerships for strengthening business and entrepreneurial skills of smallholders and accelerate their inclusion into value chains; and (iii) support the development of environments that enable smallholder involvement in, and benefit from, sustainable agro-industries.

**Aid-for-trade initiative and the role of FAO (APRC/08/4)**

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

190. Welcomed the Aid-for-Trade initiative and efforts to assist producers to meet increasingly stringent standards for food safety and export.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

191. Recommended that FAO continue to collaborate with the WTO and other development partners in elaborating the Aid-for-Trade initiative for the agricultural sector, and urged FAO to play a lead role in facilitating the implementation of the initiative in the area of agriculture.

**Regional state of food and agriculture (APRC/08/INF/5)**

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

192. Recognized climate change as a particular threat to food security and the natural resource base in the region, requiring regional and international collaboration, adjustments in policies, and enhanced capacity building programmes to support mitigation and adaptation.

193. Called on governments to renew efforts to develop well-functioning markets, clearly define property rights, improve natural resource management, and improve rural education, health services, infrastructure and agricultural research and extension in order to achieve sustainable rural development, reduce poverty and enhance food security.

**Recommendations and activities of the regional commissions (APRC/08/INF/6)**For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

194. Welcomed proposals for strengthening the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and recommended enhanced linkages between the Regional Technical Commissions the Regional Conference.

**Food safety and trade in Asia-Pacific (APRC/08/INF/7)**For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

195. Recognized the need to strengthen national food-control systems, improve the coordination of food safety activities from farm-to-table and generally raise awareness of the importance of food safety.

196. Acknowledged that adoption of a food chain approach is crucial for promoting food safety and protecting consumers from food-borne diseases and highlighted that national food control systems be risk-based and preventive in nature.

197. Recognized that one of the most significant challenges faced by the public sector in relation to food safety was the rapid proliferation of private standards for food quality and safety established by retailers, food industry, agri-business firms and others.

**Other Business**For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

198. Called on FAO to strengthen the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to provide the necessary resources to serve the needs of the region in a more timely and effective manner.

199. Urged FAO to further streamline and devolve decision-making and management authorities to the Regional Office and to further strengthen the Subregional Office for the Pacific.

200. Requested FAO to submit a fully formulated Regional Priority Framework for its review and consideration at the next Regional Conference and report on the restructuring and strengthening of the regional office to address these priorities.

**Proposed items to be considered for the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

201. Suggested that further discussion and consultation be conducted through direct and enhanced communication networks among member countries before finalization of the agenda for the Thirtieth Session.

**Date and place of the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

202. The Government of the Republic of Korea graciously reconfirmed to the Conference its offer to host the Thirtieth Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2010, in the Republic of Korea.