



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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Agriculture
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United
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Organisation
des
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pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

TWENTY-SEVENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Yerevan, Armenia, 13 and 14 May 2010

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of Rapporteur:
for decision
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable: *for decision (ERC/10/1 Rev.2 and ERC/10/INF/2 Rev.1)*

II. STANDING ITEMS

4. Statement by the Director-General (ERC/10/INF/4)
5. Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
6. Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network: *for discussion and/or recommendation (ERC/10/2 and ERC/10/2 Add.1)*

This item examines the reform of the Organization resulting from the deliberations of the 36th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 18-23 November 2009) and presents the results of the World Summit of Heads of State and Government on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009. The Conference may wish to review the IPA implementation in the Europe and Central Asia Region, including the changed responsibility and functions of the Office for this Region. The 36th FAO Conference requested the Regional Conference to provide inputs for preparation by Management of a medium- to long-term vision related to the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network, taking account of the IPA actions on decentralization.

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7. The role of FAO Regional Conferences in the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS): *for discussion and/or recommendation (ERC/10/3)*

Wide-ranging reforms were agreed to unanimously by Members of the CFS in October 2009 and approved in November 2009 by the FAO Conference. They were also endorsed by the Heads of State and Governments in November at the World Summit on Food Security who committed to “*fully implement the reform of the CFS*” as one of the four strategic goals of the Summit. This item presents these reforms, which aim to make the CFS the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform dealing with food security and nutrition, and provides an opportunity to discuss how the renewed CFS could be linked to national structures to be effectively operational.

8. Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2008-09 and the implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Regional Conference for Europe: *for discussion and/or recommendation (ERC/10/4)*
9. Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-2011 and areas of priority actions for the European Region for the following biennium 2012-2013: *for discussion and/or recommendation (ERC/10/5)*

In line with the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and the endorsement of the IPA for implementation at both FAO Headquarters and decentralized levels, the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 will be the base for a new results-based approach. Within this framework it has been agreed that the Regional Conferences will become Committees of the FAO Conference and thus include functions to develop issues for regional policy coherence and regional perspectives on global issues as well as reviewing and advising on the FAO programme for the Region and the overall programme as it affects the Region. The Conference review and recommendations on regional priorities, will allow to endorse the priorities identified for the PWB 2010-2011 in the European Region and to discuss the areas of priority actions to update the Medium-Term Plan and to prepare the PWB 2012–2013.

10. Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre: *for discussion and recommendation (ERC/10/6)*

This item examines the initiative of establishing one global Shared Services Centre by consolidating the Bangkok and Santiago hubs into the Budapest hub for efficiency and saving measures.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION

11. Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies: *for discussion and/or recommendation (ERC/10/LIM/1 and ERC/10/INF/7).*

The Secretariat will present main conclusions and recommendations stemming from the debates of the 36th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture and other Regional Committees and Commissions (the European Forestry Commission, the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD)) and other FAO regional bodies for ERC review and recommendations.

IV. MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

12. Policy response to challenges in agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia Region: sharing experience and enhancing cooperation in the Region: *for discussion and recommendation (ERC/10/7)*

Agriculture and rural areas in the Europe and Central Asia Region face three principal challenges: (i) the complex impacts of the financial and economic crises at global, regional and country levels, (ii) the impacts of climate change on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural areas as well as nutrition and food safety, which call for (iii) targeted and effective policy response, including support to investment in agriculture.

The soaring food prices in 2007-2008, on one hand, and the continuing financial and economic crises, on the other, have shown that sustainable food security in a number of countries in the Region may be threatened, whether due to return of poverty, trade imbalances or deteriorating terms of trade for agriculture, and to problems related to access to production inputs and credit. A number of transition economies that in the past decade have successfully increased agricultural production and food consumption, face the challenge of declining farm exports that may aggravate their agricultural trade balance and population access to imported food. Other countries that are restructuring their agriculture, face shortages of accessible capital for modernization investment. It is recognized that agriculture will also require considerable investment and technical assistance to face challenges stemming from impacts of climate change, ranging from investing in clean development mechanisms to adopting green and environment-friendly technologies, including renewable energy, and good farming practices.

To ensure food security, not only the volume of investment must increase but also: (i) the environment for private investors should be improved and (ii) Foreign Direct Investment attracted. Further, policies to support small farms and increase their share in investment are needed. Timely and targeted adjustment of support policies, based on exchange of economic transition experience in the Region, is necessary to support farmers, foresters and fishermen to adapt to the challenges ahead.

The Conference may wish to review and foster the sharing of experience of successful support policies, in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments given that the financial and economic crises could bring threats of protectionism. Regional cooperation and economic integration may be an avenue to facilitate trade and investment. FAO's experience in advising governments how to include small farms in agricultural growth and allow the rural poor to benefit from development may provide policy-makers with approaches to pro-poor and sustainable agriculture growth and investment.

Policies and programmes are needed for research and development of new, energy-saving and conserving technologies, combined with improved water and soils resources management, adaptive plant breeding, technologies and systems for reduced post-harvest losses that will be of key importance for the agricultural sector to adjust to climate change and scarcity of water and loss of land. The sector will face the challenge of renewable energy production that, on the one hand, may reduce greenhouse gas emissions but on the other hand, could compete for production resources, with focus on renewable energy as an approach to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts.

The Conference may wish to provide guidance on regional and subregional policies and approaches to address the challenges of crisis in financial markets, economic stagnation and decline in agricultural trade, as well as increased scarcity of water and land resources and the response to climate change impacts in terms of research, new technologies and dissemination.

V. OTHER MATTERS

13. Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the Twenty-eighth FAO Regional Conference for Europe: *for decision*
14. Any other business
15. Adoption of the Report
16. Closure of the Conference