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Наций

Organización
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para la
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y la
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND
BUDGET 2010-11 AND AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE
EUROPEAN REGION FOR THE FOLLOWING BIENNIUM
2012-2013

AGENDA ITEM 9

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I. THE NEW RESULTS-BASED APPROACH IN THE ORGANIZATION

1. The Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's Renewal (IPA) approved by the 35th (Special) Session of the FAO Conference in November 2008 laid the foundation of an enhanced results-based approach to programme planning, implementation and reporting in the Organization. It provided the basis for preparing during 2009 the Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11, which were endorsed by the 36th Session of the FAO Conference in November 2009 (see summary in Annex 1).
2. The Conference also adopted a revitalized and more inclusive intergovernmental process of review of priorities and programme and budget proposals,¹ whereby from 2010 the Regional Conferences will *inter alia* report to the Council, through the Programme and Finance Committees, on these matters, and in doing so will:
 - advise on and identify the special problems of their respective regions and priority areas of work which should be taken into account in the preparation of the planning, programme and budget documents of the Organization and suggest adjustments to these documents;
 - review and advise on the performance of the Organization in the region in contributing to the achievement of results against relevant performance indicators, including any pertinent evaluations.²
3. The purpose of this paper is to provide, for review and advice of the Regional Conference, the issues and priorities being addressed by FAO in the region during 2010-11 and the proposed priorities for 2012-13.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2010-2011 FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA³

4. The agricultural sector in all countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia remains fragile due principally to external economic and other ecological factors. The agriculture sector began to recover at the end of the 1990s and early 2000s in most countries of the region. Poverty was declining and food security was substantially improving, before external shocks hit the region. The rising food price crisis beginning at the end of 2006, followed by the global economic shock in 2008, have created new challenges for the countries of the region. Although the food production and agriculture sector were impacted by different underlying factors, these circumstances were interacting due to their implications for financial and economic stability and food and political security.
5. The food crisis aggravated the general inflation and macroeconomic imbalances by increasing the vulnerability of the population. The level of agricultural development and the magnitude of the poverty impact of the global economic crisis vary by subregion. Due to market fluctuation and weather conditions the agriculture sector is under pressure as a result of decreasing yields and unemployment in rural areas. The middle-income countries are followed closely by the low-income Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) where there are also irrigation problems, weakness of institutional and farming capacity and land degradation. In

¹ Conference Resolution (CR) 10/2009

² CR 6/2009 and new General Rules of the Organization (GRO) XXXV

³ Elaboration on C 2009/15 MTP/PWB 2010-11 Annex 1 Europe and Central Asia

addition there are eight low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) which require regular monitoring and support.

6. Twenty years into the substantial transition process, the region is highly differentiated in terms of income levels, policy agenda and technical assistance needs. Twelve countries, including ten former centrally planned economy countries, joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007, shifting attention to the needs of other countries, including support to European Union integration. The main priority as well as policy focuses for the countries of Southeastern Europe, is European Union accession, which also shapes FAO's assistance programmes in the region. Countries further to the east, predominantly forming part of the CIS, are in the process of modernizing their agriculture and fisheries sector. There is a particular need in these countries to upgrade expertise in livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and agronomy. Moreover, they require assistance in several policy and institution-building aspects, ranging from natural resource management to food safety and value chain development.

7. In addition, the countries of the CIS-Central Asia still need assistance to address the issues of rural poverty, food security, land and farm reform and water management. The global economic and financial crisis, coupled with the challenges of climate change and soaring food prices have also had serious repercussions on the economic development of numerous countries in the Europe and Central Asia region. Agricultural and rural areas in general face numerous challenges, warranting appropriate policy responses. FAO will seek to assist in the development of policy documents and master plans and will continue its partnership with governments and the private sector in the implementation of these agriculture and rural development policies and strategies.

8. The main regional challenges and priorities for FAO in 2010-11 are highlighted below for each strategic objective. The regional dimensions of FAO's work in the region as set forth in the PWB 2010-11 are provided in Annex 2. The resource allocations as per the PWB 2010-11 are shown in Annex 3.

A. SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF CROP PRODUCTION (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE A)

9. Increased crop productivity and quality, based on science-based sustainable practices and improved product quality and higher quality standards are critical to improve resource use efficiency, food security, rural development and livelihoods as well as for stable domestic supply and export growth. FAO's current work programme includes promotion of the Codex Alimentarius quality and safety standards covering different food groups, as well as training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and Good Hygiene Practices (GHPs) and implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and use of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

10. Policies and strategies are supported for sustainable crop production, intensification and diversification, management of pesticides, transboundary plant pests and diseases, coupled with the development of institutional capacities for better management of plant genetic resources, including seed production systems. Crop diversification and fostering new enterprises have the potential to contribute to income diversification and thereby reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of smallholder farmers.

11. In some Eastern European and most Central Asian countries, there is a lack of sound seed programmes to improve the delivery of good quality seed to farmers. Better coordination and harmonization of subregional and national efforts are assisted to enhance the seed industry including seed supply systems and seed certification schemes.

12. The practice of no-till in combination with soil cover and crop rotation has been found to be the best solution for addressing the causes and symptoms of land degradation and soil salinity in countries of Central Asia. Additionally, conservation agriculture has also an important role to

play in climate change mitigation strategies. No-till systems practised on a large scale as in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan result in major economic advantages and improve productivity by using commercial inputs in an optimal and efficient way. FAO promotes this technology in Central Asia to make production systems more sustainable especially for major crops such as wheat and cotton and to protect the fragile ecosystem.

13. Technical assistance will be provided also to reduce risks from outbreaks of transboundary plant pests and diseases in a sustainable way at national, regional and global levels.

14. Pesticide management including disposal of obsolete pesticides is one of the challenges facing both subregions. The accumulation of obsolete stocks is causing serious health and environmental problems such as pesticide poisoning, contamination of water resources and soil pollution. FAO assists to undertake a range of measures with regard to pesticide management programmes and enhances the technical capacities of several member countries with regard to the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention through awareness-raising and training.

B. INCREASED SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE B)

15. The livestock sector provides an important contribution to agricultural output in the region as well as to income generation and diversification. The anticipated continued expansion of demand for animal products necessitates substantial improvements in resource use efficiencies, and the accelerated development and adoption of appropriate technologies. It also calls for an increase in the surveillance and diagnostic capabilities of the state and private veterinary services for transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases.

16. FAO raises awareness that the development of advanced and appropriate livestock production practices contribute to increased livestock productivity and improved food security and assists government authorities and the private sector in their efforts to improve the management capacity of the livestock sector, raise livestock productivity and increase producers' income.

17. In order to improve access both to domestic and export markets, veterinary departments receive technical assistance to develop national animal health delivery services systems in line with international requirements. This will be achieved by analysing current livestock health and production practices and opportunities for improvement and through identification of best practices within and outside the region that can be adopted by livestock producers and governments. Improving access to livestock and fish feed which represents a major constraint to the development of these sectors and the attainment of sustainable growth remains a key priority for a number of member countries in Central Asia.

18. FAO promotes the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources through the development of national strategies and action plans for the improved management and conservation of animal genetic resources. There will also be assistance provided for the development and implementation of animal identification, performance recording systems and breeding strategies.

C. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C)

19. The fisheries and aquaculture sector plays an important role in human nutrition, in the fight against hunger and poverty and more generally in economic development. FAO provides technical and legal assistance for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) for effective management and conservation of fisheries and aquaculture resources, better conservation of aquatic biodiversity, productivity and health of ecosystems in order to support fishery resources and fish production.

20. Many countries of the region have considerable unutilized inland water resources for smallholder or semi-industrial aquaculture whereas marine resources are extensively exploited and in need of strengthened regional institutional cooperation on management and research. Smallholder aquaculturists in rural areas receive special attention through FAO's technical assistance.

21. At the regional level, FAO supports the activities of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) and the recently approved Central Asia and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission as a new Article XIV body under the FAO Constitution. In marine fisheries the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) represents an important international forum.

22. Efforts at international and national level are assisted both for marine and inland fisheries aiming at sustainable management of resources, rehabilitation of fish stocks of endangered species and preservation of aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity. Improving institutional and technical capacities for the traceability and certification of fish products is an important market access prerequisite for both the countries in European Union accession and countries entering the European Partnership Programme.

D. IMPROVED QUALITY AND SAFETY OF FOODS AT ALL STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE D)

23. Inadequate control of food safety and quality along the food chain continue to plague both developed and developing countries. Establishment of efficient institutional frameworks for food safety, meeting the demands for food exports and the requirements for adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) are high on the priority agenda of member countries in the region. The harmonization of food control systems with European Union requirements is also a priority issue for many member countries. There is also a need for the establishment of efficient border control mechanisms and well-functioning food control systems along the entire food chain, from primary production to consumption.

24. The application of preventive and integrated approaches to food safety along the entire food chain from production to consumption is supported by FAO to ensure food safety along the food chain including the application of a risk analysis framework to ensure that risk management decisions are based on the best available scientific data, as well as the effective use of Codex Alimentarius and other internationally-agreed food quality standards, recommendations and codes of practice as essential measures for improving food control and food safety systems. FAO raises awareness and supports capacities for appropriate policies, strategies and legislative/regulatory frameworks, emphasizing public-private partnerships, with the objective to improve governance of plant and animal health and safety of plant and animal products through risk-based inspection, good hygiene practices at the production level, traceability and control of animal feed quality.

25. FAO's work programme reflects the growing importance of on-farm diversification and value-adding activities in food supply as essential tools for improving rural livelihoods, whereby voluntary food standards and specific quality production schemes (e.g. organic farming, geographical indication and geographical origin (GI/GO, etc.)) are essential components of this approach.

E. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE E)

26. The forest sector continues to be affected by the rapid pace of global changes. Forestry has become more people-centred, and society's demands on forests have undergone significant changes with increasing emphasis on environmental, social and cultural values. Interactions between the forest sector and other sectors are increasingly understood to be a source of both problems and opportunities. In addition, the critical role that forests and trees outside forests play

in mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, as well as a source of bioenergy, are increasingly recognized, requiring careful consideration in national and international decision-making.

27. FAO's work programme recognizes that the region possesses vast forest and woodland resources and enables these assets to play an important role in the sustainable development of member countries through the production of various forest products and services, the provision of vital environmental functions (e.g. conservation of soil and water resources, combating desertification, mitigating climate change, provision of habitats for wildlife, etc.) and the provision of socio-economic benefits, including contributing to food security, employment and livelihoods of local communities and providing recreational opportunities for urban people. The strengthening of sustainable forest management is a common requirement in all countries of the region, thus it is a key element of FAO's technical assistance.

F. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND, WATER AND GENETIC RESOURCES AND IMPROVED RESPONSES TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AFFECTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE F)

28. Natural resources and their services are essential to food production, rural development and sustainable livelihoods. Conflicts and competition over access to, and the use of these resources are increasing due to the rising demand for food, water, fibre and energy. The increased intensity of natural resource use will result in the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of productive land and water resources. FAO's assistance focuses on proper management of land and water resources, improvements in water productivity and the securing of land tenure rights to contribute to the overarching objective of sustainable management of natural resources.

29. Land reform processes and changes in property/use rights to natural resources introduced during the early transition period have resulted in many countries in a large subsistence farming sector with small and fragmented properties. However, in an increasingly globalized economy there is a need to create an economically viable and competitive farm sector through investment in farms and farm restructuring. Therefore, the sustainable management of land resources, the securing of land tenure rights and farm restructuring through land consolidation are supported by FAO as essential tools to address these challenges.

30. Climate change is a complex global issue with regional implications and location specificity, the impact of which on the agricultural and related sectors, coupled with recent food and economic crises, is likely to aggravate the already existing chronic problems in these sectors and negatively affect their sustainability. FAO promotes integrated approaches with emphasis on strengthening the efficiency of the countries' agricultural research and extension systems in order to facilitate the implementation and safe use of innovative and modern technologies, including appropriate biotechnologies, while taking into consideration the conservation of genetic resources.

G. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MARKETS TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE G)

31. There is substantial scope for both agricultural growth and poverty reduction in the European region. FAO's work programme takes into consideration that European Union integration and accession is the priority for the countries of Southeast Europe, whereas the European CIS, Georgia and the Central Asian countries focus on their integration into global markets by improving the competitiveness of their agriculture and rural sector.

32. Livelihoods and rural employment are affected by the extent to which small producers exploit given market opportunities, and markets and institutions function efficiently in a changing environment.

33. In order to integrate national economies into global markets, the rural economies and the agricultural sector have to become competitive and economically viable and simultaneously, rural livelihoods must be ensured in order to maintain vibrant rural areas. FAO assists to develop tools and methodologies to address these challenges through implementing rural development programmes and policies, in particular for rural employment creation through on- and off-farm income diversification.

34. The agrofood value chains in the European region require more planning and coordination, and in particular improved linkages between farmers, agribusinesses and retailers. Technical assistance is provided to create an enabling environment for productive partnerships, building local linkages and institutions to support diverse livelihoods and transformation of supply chains into harmonized, integrated value chains. It is also important that FAO provides technical assistance to strengthen the institutions and organizations of smallholder farmers as well as small- and medium-size businesses, enabling them to channel the resources provided by the international private sector in an efficient manner.

35. Given the globalization of agrofood value chains, it is assumed that stakeholders need to be informed of developments in international markets, policies and international trade rules, and to have the capacity to exploit market opportunities. To this effect countries must support policies to create enabling environments for integration of their agrofood sectors into global value chains, and FAO and its partner organizations are expected to assist them.

H. IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND BETTER NUTRITION (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE H)

36. The principal causes of food insecurity in the Europe and Central Asia region are poverty, lack of integration into high-value markets and micronutrient malnutrition. FAO addresses these challenges through improving agricultural, trade and nutrition policies and practices in the region. In addition, FAO monitors changes in agricultural production, trade and prices through updating FAOSTAT, working closely with national statistical organizations and international organizations, such as EUROSTAT.

37. Poverty in this region is predominantly rural and employment in rural areas is quite limited outside of agriculture. Thus, the main instrument for poverty alleviation in the region consists of improvements in agricultural policies to support rural farm incomes. As most agricultural commodities are produced in small- and medium-sized farms, FAO builds capacities to develop agricultural policies in support of rural incomes and concentrates on facilitating advisory services, market access and farmer group formation, improving the access of small producers to pastures and arable land, providing a stable policy environment that respects land tenure rights and improves linkages within the value chain for high-value products.

38. The lack of integration of small farm agriculture in the region into high-value export markets is also an impediment to growth of farm incomes in the region. This problem is both the province of trade policy, accession to the WTO and the achievement of Free Trade Agreements with the European Union, as well as agricultural policy. Although the Transcaucasus countries, Central Asia and the Republic of Moldova have traditionally specialized in high-value fruits and vegetables, most small- and medium-agricultural producers in these countries are not competitive on global markets. Therefore, FAO aims at assisting to improve food value chains within the region with the objective of exporting high-value products. At the same time rural livelihoods have to be sustainable in order to maintain vibrant rural areas. Therefore, holistic approaches are required to develop sustainable agriculture and rural development strategies and programmes, focusing on area-based/territorial management.

39. A further widespread motive for food insecurity in the region is micronutrient malnutrition primarily associated with inadequate knowledge related to pre- and post-natal nutrition and regarding general practices related to a balanced diet. Attention to proper nutrition is

critical for pregnant mothers and small infants. FAO's analytical work and technical assistance aims at improving the quality of life and food security of the rural population through better processing and storage methods and consumer education with regard to food composition and nutrient requirements for balanced nutrition and the promotion of a food-based approach to prevent micronutrient deficiencies.

I. IMPROVED PREPAREDNESS FOR, AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL THREATS AND EMERGENCIES (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE I)

40. FAO has been involved in addressing the needs related to food and agricultural emergencies since the early 1970s. For this FAO cooperates with several international institutions and civil society organizations. While FAO has been active in early warning through the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) and support to national and regional information systems, only a few activities have been carried out for other components of preparedness.

41. In terms of comprehensive preparedness plans at the regional and national levels, FAO intends to support the assessment of impact and needs in future disasters by including information on logistics, population distribution, food security, natural resources, disaster history and impact; and by taking into account existing relevant initiatives, carrying out regular collection and analysis of information and integrating the household food security dimension and vulnerability analysis through the development of local food security monitoring systems in the whole region.

J. GENDER EQUITY IN ACCESS TO RESOURCES, GOODS, SERVICES AND DECISION-MAKING IN RURAL AREAS (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE K)

42. Gender inequalities and other forms of social inequalities and discrimination remain a significant challenge in the efforts for equitable social and economic development and have a negative effect on food, nutrition and income security. Although a number of transition economies have shown progress in embracing a more gender-sensitive and socially inclusive approach in agricultural policy formulation and implementation, critical gaps remain.

43. Women and families play a crucial role in household level food security and incomes as well as in sustainable management of the farm household and rural environment. FAO's field programme supports government institutions and the private sector to improve the access of women to agricultural extension and knowledge, non-farm jobs and incomes and required social services as well as to water and land resources.

44. The European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development during its biennial sessions is addressing rural policy issues and mainstreaming gender into farm support and rural areas rehabilitation and development programmes and through its expert meetings is addressing technical issues and sharing experience and networking in field projects.

K. INCREASED AND MORE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE L)

45. Over the past two decades, public funding of agriculture has declined sharply, in both relative and absolute terms, and at both international and national levels. Improved agricultural productivity and meeting the global challenges of food security require a firm reversal of this reduction.

46. In order to achieve the highest possible impact of public and private investments in food, agriculture and rural development, FAO assists member countries to meet a number of conditions: among others, appropriate policies, strategies and programmes, an enabling environment for investment in strict compliance with social and environmental safeguards, appropriate formulation, monitoring and evaluation of investment programmes with impact assessment.

47. FAO promotes the involvement of the intended beneficiaries in agricultural and rural development investment, especially small-scale farmers, who together comprise the world's biggest investors in agriculture.

48. Increase of investment in agriculture and rural development based on the priority areas defined under the National Medium-Term Programme Framework (NMTPF) and making those investments as effective as possible are both top priorities for FAO's joint partnership with countries and public and private financial institutions to increase the efficacy and flow of external, domestic and private investments to agriculture and rural development.

L. EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES AND STAKEHOLDERS (FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVE X)

49. The provision of rural public goods constitutes a key role governments can play for the sustainable support of agricultural development in the region. Important public goods include the establishment of transparent agricultural policies for development of the sector, the provision of an adequate legal base for farm and non-farm businesses, land and farm registration services, research, extension and training, market information, plant and livestock health services, food safety services and the setting of standards and grades. FAO has global experience in the design and analysis of rural public goods and can provide information and training on all rural public goods.

50. The 26th Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) called for an enhanced contribution to knowledge-sharing and more efficient use of FAO's experience in the policies related to rural public goods, including the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of agricultural-related data and information for the benefit of its member countries. FAO aims at expanding the ways in which information and data are developed and disseminated by enhancing its support provided to Thematic Knowledge Networks as well as by mainstreaming best practices and fostering knowledge-sharing.

51. The preparation of NMTPFs and their implementation provides a tool by which governments in the region and FAO can agree on priority areas of policy and technical assistance that will also facilitate resource mobilization. A client-oriented approach, coupled with high efficiency and responsible management will be crucial to the successful development of knowledge-based public goods.

52. The ongoing United Nations reform process, FAO's own reform and global and European regional economic integration call for increased collaboration between different actors in development assistance. "Delivering as One" and FAO's collaborative instrument, NMTPFs, are an expression of this process.

III. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET IN THE BIENNIUM 2012-13

53. The majority of the priorities for the 2012-13 biennium submitted for consideration represent a continuation of the work programme initiated during the current biennium or in recent years. This is justified by the medium- and long-term nature both of the needs and priorities of the member countries, as well as by the nature of public goods, FAO is assisting to access. Technical assistance to agriculture and rural development challenges as well as assistance to reinforce national institutional and technical capacities are not short-term undertakings.

54. In responding to the specific assistance requirements of the member countries, the regional and subregional offices broadened the technical profile of their professional staff to cover new technical areas such as plant production and protection, food safety and consumer protection, agricultural research and biotechnology. The work programmes initiated in these areas extend beyond the current biennium.

55. Discontinuation of some work programme elements of the current biennium as well as revised and new work programmes reflect the changes in assistance requirements for member countries in relation to the new challenges: the worldwide economic recession, worsening food insecurity in many parts of the globe including the European and Central Asia region, impacts of climate change, shrinking biodiversity, etc. While the suggested changes are based on broad technical and policy consultations with member countries, international fora and institutions including bilateral and multilateral development partners, the views advanced by member countries during the debate on this agenda item will be of utmost importance.

56. The results-based priority areas for the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-13 are summarized below.

A. SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF CROP PRODUCTION (SO A)

57. Proposed priorities related to the sustainable intensification of crop production focus on assessment of the needs, gaps, opportunities and priorities of crop production intensification and diversification and technical support to member countries for the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and for pesticide and obsolete pesticide management. Promotion of conservation agriculture practices pertains mainly to member countries in Central Asia.

B. INCREASED SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (SO B)

58. In the livestock sector some of the proposed priorities such as support for implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and capacity-building of state and private veterinary services, relate to both subregions. However, most of the priorities have different levels of importance, market access has a higher priority in Eastern and Southern Europe while capacity-building for advanced livestock production practices is principally focused at countries in Central Asia.

C. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE RESOURCES (SO C)

59. The majority of the priorities identified for the sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources have a high level of importance in both subregions (Central and Eastern Europe [SEU] and Central Asia [SEC]). These are implementation of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries and other related international instruments, the formalization of regional cooperation and partnership development among member countries, improved management of inland fisheries resources and assistance to sustainable aquaculture development. Promotion of by-catch reduction technologies and support of international certification requirements is more focussed towards the Central and Eastern European subregion, while raising awareness about illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries, reinforcement of monitoring, control and surveillance systems and support to improve domestic fish and fishery products marketing channels is directed mainly towards the member countries in Central Asia.

D. IMPROVED QUALITY AND SAFETY OF FOODS AT ALL STAGES OF THE FOOD CHAIN (SO D)

60. Priority actions to support the improved quality and safety of food at all stages of the food chain are of equal importance in both subregions. Proposed priorities relate to building and

strengthening national capacities for effective participation in Codex Alimentarius processes, use of Codex standards and related support to strengthen national institutional and legal systems related to food safety, development of national strategies, training and educational programmes to promote food quality and safety as well as to improve nutritional balance and the level of nutritional education in the region, emphasizing the impact of food choices on climate change. Following the specific recommendations of the 26th ERC, the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) continues to raise awareness and foster the development of policies, strategies, voluntary standards and specific quality schemes for special quality foods linked to Geographical Indications and Traditions (GI/GO products).

E. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES (SO E)

61. The majority of the proposed priority actions in sustainable management of forests and trees are of equal importance for member countries in both subregions. FAO seeks to facilitate the information flow between international organizations and member countries in the region, to reinforce the capacities of decision-makers to strengthen communication among the various stakeholders both at the national level and through international cooperation for secure and sustainable forest management practices and essential tools. Further activities proposed are promotion of the social and economic value and livelihood benefits of forest and technical assistance to create an enabling environment in target countries for local market development and also to support opportunities to access the international trade flow for both wood and non-wood products. Assistance towards forest, wildlife and protected area legislation and related training and education as well as the preparation of guidelines for good forest practices and support of subregional training and exchange programmes is focused principally at member countries in Central Asia.

F. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND, WATER AND GENETIC RESOURCES AND IMPROVED RESPONSES TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AFFECTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SO F)

62. Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and assessing the possible responses to global environmental challenges affecting agriculture and rural development is one of the principal tasks of a multidisciplinary technical team of the regional and subregional offices specialized in land tenure, policy, research and biotechnology as well as gender issues. Priority activities are targeted towards the development of tools and methodologies to implement secure and equitable land tenure rights, farm restructuring and land consolidation in order to create an economically viable and competitive farm sector. Another set of priorities relate to the assessment of the needs, gaps, opportunities and priorities of research systems, technical assistance in capacity-building in research, extension and communication for development including issues arising from sustainable and safe use of agricultural biotechnologies. FAO aims to assist in developing tools and capacities to facilitate the communication and functional linkages among different stakeholders in agricultural research systems and advisory services in support of rural livelihoods and development. Within the context of the promotion of agricultural innovation, knowledge-based agriculture and effective extension and technology transfer, FAO continues to contribute to the publication of various biotechnology related publications, such as the Russian version of the Glossary of Biotechnology for Food and Agriculture, the FAO-BioDec of biotechnology products and techniques and the expansion of the multilingual FAO Biotech News.

G. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR MARKETS TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SO G)

63. Related to this Strategic Objective, FAO will build on the results of the work of the current biennium and continue to promote agribusiness and enterprise development and improve the linkages among producers, processors and retailers in order to improve the competitiveness of

farms and producers in the market place. The assistance will focus on the collection and dissemination of best practices for the engagement of private sector investment in market-driven farm commercialization and rural small- and medium-enterprise development as well as on agricultural value chain innovation, market and product development and the role of agricultural financial services and input supply systems. In line with the recommendations of the 26th ERC, FAO will continue with policy and technical assistance for the development of tools and methodologies and capacity-building for implementing rural development programmes and policies to assist the rural sector to become competitive and economically viable; with the specific objectives of achieving sustainable rural livelihoods and creating rural employment through farm income diversification.

H. IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND BETTER NUTRITION (SO H)

64. Priority activities related to improvements in food security in the region focus on the principal causes of food insecurity in the Europe and Central Asia region. FAO's assistance will concentrate on timely and forward-looking analyses for the design and implementation of appropriate agricultural, trade and nutrition policies, and other interventions to address food security and rural development challenges according special attention to the LIFDCs of the region. In order to improve nutrition practices, FAO will assist in the development of science-based dietary guidelines and educational and communication tools aimed at improving nutrition and encouraging diversity in food consumption including the use of local and traditional foods. Advice would be provided on their nutritional value and on household level food preservation options.

I. IMPROVED PREPAREDNESS FOR, AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL THREATS AND EMERGENCIES (SO I)

65. FAO continues to provide early, real-time analyses of how the global crisis is affecting the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, signals newly-emerging and dramatically worsening situations of global concern, and draws the attention of high-level decision-making fora to the plight of those most in need while concurrently monitoring the duration and the impact of a crisis. In the event of natural or human-induced disasters FAO also responds to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

J. GENDER EQUITY IN ACCESS TO RESOURCES, GOODS, SERVICES AND DECISION-MAKING IN RURAL AREAS (SO K)

66. Rural gender equity is incorporated in various technical assistance programmes and projects of FAO ensuring the promotion of gender equity in agriculture, rural development and food security. REU continues to support the biennial formal sessions and the specific expert meetings of the FAO ECA Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development.

K. INCREASED AND MORE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SO L)

67. FAO continues to work in partnership with member countries and both public and private financial institutions to increase the efficacy and the flow of external, domestic and private investments to agriculture and rural development. FAO will continue to promote its own software and training programme, RuralInvest, to improve planning and implementation of small- and medium-sized rural investments. In addition to the publication of relevant studies and technical papers, FAO intends to launch a broad training programme including annual workshops on formulation of investment projects in agriculture and rural development.

L. EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES AND STAKEHOLDERS (FO X)

68. Policy assistance and advice to selected member countries in Central and Eastern Europe will focus on three topics: regional economic integration, farm support policies for a competitive and market-oriented farming sector and diversification of rural employment and income. It is expected that the present financial and economic crisis will continue to negatively affect agricultural investments and trade coupled with the negative effects of climate change. Hence, REU is ready to continue providing policy assistance linked to the experiences of countries that have successfully implemented market-oriented reforms, counteracted the negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis on the agricultural sector, developed supportive mechanisms to sustain rural areas, advocated adaptation to climate change and that have been able to mitigate climate change impacts in rural areas.

69. In order to reinforce effective collaboration with member countries, contribute to further coherence and a programming approach in technical assistance and ensure that FAO's new results-based management system is addressing the priority needs of member countries, REU will continue to provide its services to interested member countries to prepare, validate and monitor NMTPFs. The ongoing United Nations reform process, FAO's own reform and European integration call for increased collaboration between the different actors in development assistance. In order to ensure the inclusion of NMTPFs in UNDAFs and other coherent exercises and to provide inputs into joint programmes at country level in a proactive manner, FAO will continue to work closely with United Nations agencies, the United Nations Regional Directors Teams, the United Nations Country Teams, the European Union and other intergovernmental organizations working in the region in fields related to agricultural policies, land tenure, rural development and natural resources management.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

70. The future circumstances of the agricultural sector and markets are likely to continue to be volatile and uncertain in many ways, so it would be prudent to provide stronger social protection for the vulnerable population and risk management tools for producers. Provided below is a list of recommended policies to respond to these challenges:

1. Medium-term policy priorities:
 - a) expand early warning and rapid response capacities and target **food production programmes** with inputs, credit and extension education packages. This approach to reduce hunger advanced by FAO is a valid response to this dual crisis. It helps make food accessible to the most vulnerable and simultaneously assists producers, especially smallholders, to raise their output and increase their incomes;
 - b) accelerate local adaptation and dispersion of currently existing technologies;
 - c) complete the Doha Round of trade negotiations and restore trust in the international trading system with improved multilateral or plurilateral rules and agreements.
2. Long-term policy priorities:
 - a) increase investment in agricultural, research, food processing and post-harvest technology;
 - b) improve market functioning to facilitate price transmission and better integration with global commodity markets;
 - c) develop risk management tools for farmers;
 - d) enhance rural development and rural infrastructure investments;
 - e) invest in social protection or safety net measures to protect vulnerable populations.

71. The countries of the region have faced many challenges over the last two decades, and most have experienced substantial transformations in social, economic and agricultural institutions and policies. Some policies in some of the countries have clearly been more successful than others. The lessons learned during these years of change in dealing with adversity

in agriculture and rural development will be invaluable when tackling any possible shocks and new crises and for building a sustainable agricultural system, agrofood chain, and sound food security and safety sectors. Thus, it will be important during this 27th Regional Conference to benefit from the experiences and perspectives of different countries in order to work together to progress in the application of these measures and incorporate them into the Programme of Work 2012-13.

ANNEX 1 – THE NEW RESULTS-BASED APPROACH IN FAO

1. The four-year Medium-Term Plan applies the principles and major elements of the results-based approach. The major elements, as set forth in the Strategic Framework, comprise:
 - **Global Goals** representing the fundamental development impacts, in the areas of FAO's mandate, which the countries aim to achieve;
 - **Strategic Objectives** contributing to the achievement of the Global Goals;
 - **Functional Objectives** providing the enabling environment for FAO's work;
 - **Organizational Results** defining the outcome of FAO's work under each Strategic and Functional Objective; and
 - **Core Functions** as the critical means of action to be employed by FAO to achieve results.
2. The eleven Strategic Objectives agreed in the Strategic Framework reflect the assessment of challenges and opportunities facing food, agriculture and rural development. They express the impact, in countries, regions and globally, that is expected to be achieved over a long-term (ten-year) timeframe by Members based on FAO's value-added interventions. In order to ensure that all aspects of FAO's work are considered within a results-based framework, complementary Functional Objectives assist the Organization to ensure effective impact of technical delivery, with due attention to efficiency and, therefore also firmly contribute to the achievement of Strategic Objectives (see *Figure 1*).
3. Under the Strategic Objectives, the more specific Organizational Results represent the outcomes expected to be achieved over a four-year period through the taking-up and use by countries and partners of FAO's products and services. The identification of Organizational Results also applies to Functional Objectives.
4. The eight Core Functions draw on FAO's comparative advantages and are to be applied at all levels: global, regional and national. They are subject to articulated strategies to ensure coherent approaches, cooperation among organizational units, mutual learning and the pursuit of excellence.
5. The Organizational Results, as measured by indicators, constitute the backbone of the four-year Medium-Term Plan and biennial Programme of Work and Budget, reflecting the substantive priorities upheld by the membership (see Medium-Term Plan Section C and PWB Section IV).
6. Other tools to inform of the development and contribute to the achievement of the Organizational Results and Strategic Objectives include:
 - National Medium-term Priority Frameworks (NMTPFs) which are developed together with the concerned governments to focus FAO's efforts on well-identified national needs;
 - structured and consultative development of subregional and regional areas of priority action, including via the Regional Conferences and specialized Regional Commissions; and
 - at the global level, a limited number of Impact Focus Areas to help mobilize voluntary contributions for priority groups of Organizational Results, providing a communication and advocacy tool and with emphasis on capacity building and policy frameworks (see *Section E*).
7. During implementation, progress towards the achievement of the Organizational Results, as measured through their indicators, will be tracked. This results-based monitoring will permit the identification of any issues that could prevent FAO from delivering the Organizational Results, and provide the opportunity to make in-course adjustments and changes to forward planning. Biennial implementation reporting under the new results-based regime will change significantly, both in terms of content and presentation. Future reports will focus on achievement

of outcomes as measured against targets specified in the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, rather than activities and outputs.

Figure 1: Main components of FAO's results framework

FAO's vision

A world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contributes to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The three Global Goals of Members:

- reduction of the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;
- elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods;
- sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategic Objectives

- A. Sustainable intensification of crop production.
- B. Increased sustainable livestock production.
- C. Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources.
- D. Improved quality and safety of foods at all stages of the food chain.
- E. Sustainable management of forests and trees.
- F. Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture.
- G. Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods and rural development.
- H. Improved food security and better nutrition.
- I. Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies.
- K. Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in rural areas.
- L. Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development.

Functional Objectives

- X. Effective collaboration with member countries and stakeholders.
- Y. Efficient and effective administration.

Core Functions

- a. Monitoring and assessment of long- and medium-term trends and perspectives.
- b. Assembly and provision of information, knowledge and statistics.
- c. Development of international instruments, norms and standards.
- d. Policy and strategy options and advice.
- e. Technical support to promote technology transfer and build capacity.
- f. Advocacy and communication.
- g. Interdisciplinarity and innovation.
- h. Partnerships and alliances.

ANNEX 2: PWB 2010-11 REGIONAL DIMENSIONS – EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA⁴

1. Twenty years into the substantial transition process, the region is highly differentiated in terms of income levels, policy agenda and technical assistance needs. Twelve countries, including ten former centrally planned economy countries, joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007, shifting FAO's attention to the needs of other countries, including support to European Union integration. Assistance is geared toward the enhancement of food value chains, the *acquis communautaire*, sustainable management of natural resources and ensuring food security. Countries further to the East, are in the process of modernizing their agriculture and rural sector, as well as institutions for sector governance that foster the development of family farms and private agriculture. In these countries, there is a particular need to upgrade expertise in veterinary medicine, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and agronomy. Moreover, they require assistance in several policy and institution-building aspects, ranging from natural resource management to food safety and value chain development. In addition, the countries of CIS-Central Asia still need assistance to address the issues of rural poverty, food security and water management.

2. FAO will seek to assist in the development of policy documents and master plans, and will continue its close partnership with governments and the private sector in the implementation of these policies. Based on the recommendations stemming from the 26th Regional Conference in 2008, the main areas of emphasis in the PWB 2010-11 are highlighted below:

- *Support for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources* (SOs C, E, F): development of policies and programmes focusing on natural resource management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation; capacity building for marine and inland fisheries aimed at preserving ecosystems; forestry management and forest protection measures and policy development; improvements in water productivity and securing land tenure rights; human capacities in research, extension and communication, with special attention on biotechnologies.
- *Knowledge-Based Public Goods Development and Management* (SOs H, FO X): facilitating access to FAO's analyses and other information products and services related to food security, fisheries, agriculture and nutrition; support to Thematic Knowledge Networks and mainstreaming best practices.
- *Agricultural trade* (SO G): due to the fact that agricultural trade continues to play a key role in improving food security and fostering growth in the region. Fostering increased trade will require improved product quality, higher phytosanitary and commercial quality standards.
- *Value Chain Development* (SO G): the promotion of enterprise development; enhancement of food quality and safety; quantitative measurement of value added; coordinated linkages among producers, processors and retailers, and the improvement of the competitive position of individual farms in the market place.
- *Food Quality and Safety Systems Improvement* (SO D): support for the development of adequate institutional frameworks for food safety; assistance to countries to meet the requirements for integration into the World Trade Organization (WTO); support for technical and sanitary upgrading of industries, capacity building in policy formulation and in the elaboration of appropriate legislation, *inter alia* with regard to phytosanitary measures; assistance in development of adequate border control mechanisms and well-functioning veterinary systems.
- *Improvement of Rural Livelihoods* (SOs A, B, F, G, K, L): development of policies and strategies aimed at sustainable crop production and livestock, intensification and diversification, management of pesticides, transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; support for the development of institutional capacities for better management of animal and plant genetic resources, including breeding services and seed systems;

⁴ C 2009/15 MTP/PWB 2010-11 Annex 1 paragraphs 316-317

support for preparation of appropriate rural development strategies related to area-based management and investment in the agriculture sector.

- *Gender mainstreaming* (SOs F, G, K): including support for programmes and activities aimed at improving women's access to education, health and social services as well as to water and land resources.
- *Agricultural and environmental problems* (SOs A, B, F): focus being on assistance to formulation of policies related to the development and management of land, soil and water resources, the conservation of biodiversity and technical assistance aimed at reducing the agricultural sector's vulnerability to adverse natural and socio-economic factors and other risks.

ANNEX 3: 2010-11 BUDGET BY STRATEGIC/FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES AND REGION⁵ (USD MILLIONS)

SO/FO	Headquarters/ Global		Africa		Asia and Pacific		Europe and Central Asia		Latin America and the Caribbean		Near East		Total		
	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Total
A	39.2	143.4	3.5	7.8	1.7	19.4	1.2	1.2	2.1	11.6	2.7	8.7	50.4	192.1	242.5
B	23.8	135.1	2.5	2.5	1.5	4.6	1.1	4.1	2.2	4.0	1.5	4.7	32.6	155.0	187.6
C	47.5	54.7	3.4	2.3	1.4	21.7	1.1	1.5	2.1	3.0	1.6	4.6	57.1	87.8	144.9
D	21.6	9.3	1.7	1.0	0.6	7.4	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.4	25.3	18.1	43.4
E	32.3	56.5	3.6	6.2	1.8	9.1	2.0	0.0	2.7	5.9	1.2	0.3	43.6	78.0	121.6
F	43.1	56.8	3.7	3.7	1.9	8.6	1.3	1.0	2.4	9.4	2.2	5.4	54.6	84.9	139.5
G	34.6	24.2	3.1	15.2	1.2	1.6	0.5	1.4	1.0	7.6	1.2	1.5	41.6	51.5	93.1
H	49.7	39.6	3.4	16.4	1.9	14.0	1.2	0.0	2.1	18.1	2.2	1.8	60.5	89.9	150.4
I	7.2	367.7	0.3	1.3	0.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	7.8	372.2	380.0
K	8.6	5.8	0.8	3.6	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.2	2.5	0.0	0.1	10.3	12.7	23.0
L	36.3	45.8	0.9	4.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	38.6	51.8	90.4
X	192.8	12.5	5.4	0.1	9.8	0.2	7.2	0.5	5.2	1.5	5.1	3.6	225.5	18.4	243.9
Y	79.9	14.4	7.0	0.6	7.9	0.0	16.1*	1.9	7.4	1.2	4.6	0.4	122.9	18.5	141.4
FAOR	0.0	0.0	45.6	6.0	15.5	3.5	2.4	0.1	17.1	3.9	7.6	0.7	88.2	14.2	102.4
TCP	20.6	0.0	36.1	0.0	21.8	0.0	9.3	0.0	16.4	0.0	7.5	0.0	111.7	0.0	111.7
Contin- gency	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6

⁵ C 2009/15 MTP/PWB Annex V adjusted for approved budget level (CR 3/2009) including cost increases and before distribution of unidentified further efficiency gains and one-time savings

SO/FO	Headquarters/ Global		Africa		Asia and Pacific		Europe and Central Asia		Latin America and the Caribbean		Near East		Total		
	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Net Approp	Extra- budgetary	Total
Capex	27.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.1	0.0	27.1
Security	24.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.9	0.8	25.7
<i>Less: Unidentified Further Efficiency Gains and One-Time Savings</i>													(22.8)	0.0	(22.8)
Total	689.8	966.6	121.0	70.8	67.6	92.5	44.2	12.7	62.8	70.4	37.9	32.9	1 000.5	1 245.9	2 246.4

*Includes Shared Services Centre budget for Budapest and Rome hubs.