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منظمة الأغذية
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联合国
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Food and
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

Regional Conference for Africa

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Brazzaville, Congo, 23-27 April 2012

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2012-2015 FOR THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

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I. Overall Objectives

The objectives reflect the enhanced role of the Regional Conference in the governance process of FAO. In particular, the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the Region regarding matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate, and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.

In this context, the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. ARC also conducts regional-level assessments, to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food security. The Conference also exercises oversight of the functions and activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization. It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.

The African Union Commission (AUC), through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/ NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency's (NPCA) Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), serves as foundation for the work of ARC. The FAO Multi-disciplinary teams (MDT), organized at the sub-regional levels in the Africa region, provide review for technical aspects and issues of importance to the Regional Priorities and the CAADP. The results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the sub-regional MDT meetings are discussed and adopted by the Regional MDT and presented to ARC for general endorsement. These recommendations complement and inform the discussions during ARC sessions on the Programme of Work, and the Regional Priority Framework.

II. Results

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

Result 1: ARC recommendations and guidance on the regional priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets, as well as on the CAADP and relevant pilot programmes and issues pertaining to food security, agriculture and rural development, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the Council and the Conference.

Indicators and targets:

- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by ARC to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the Region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators. Indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART).
- ARC recommendations relating to the Regional Priority Framework, the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the Council and Conference reports.
- ARC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant bodies.

Outputs:

- Clear, precise and action-oriented recommendations for Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the Region.

Activities:

- Review implementation of the Regional Priority Framework and PWB in the Region.
- Review decisions and recommendations from the Regional Technical Commissions, and other relevant institutions and meetings in the Region.
- Review the performance of the Organization in the Region, including effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
- Make recommendations on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the Region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

Working methods:

- Collaborate with relevant statutory bodies, technical commissions, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other institutions in the Region.
- Informal consultations among member countries as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and the ADG/Regional Representative, including for informal coordination meetings with the Secretariats of the sub-regional technical commissions.

B. Monitoring of and Advice on Policy and Regulatory Matters**Result 2: ARC recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.**Indicators and targets:

- Clear, action-oriented recommendations included in the ARC report.
- Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

Output:

- Clear recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

Activities:

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the Region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting the mandate of FAO.

- Consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies, including the regional technical commissions, and meetings of relevance to the Region.
- Periodically address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the Region.
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the Region.

Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the Region.
- Liaise with relevant FAO statutory bodies, regional technical commissions, RECs and other institutions in the Region.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with relevant Sub-regional Groups.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and FAO Management.

C. Work Planning and Working Methods

Result 3: ARC operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

- ARC agendas are focused.
- ARC decisions are taken by consensus.
- ARC reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
- ARC documents adhere to new corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages four weeks before the session commences.
- 90-100 percent of countries participate at the appropriate level in ARC.

Outputs:

- Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for ARC adopted in 2012.
- Progress report on ARC MYPOW provided in 2014.
- Methods of work of ARC kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

Activities:

- Consult with members on agenda and format of ARC.
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
- Review Rules of Procedure for ARC.
- Preparation of the ARC MYPOW with performance indicators and progress reports to Council and Conference on the MYPOW.
- Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
- Review of the status of implementation of ARC recommendations.

Working methods:

- Consult with members, through the Chairperson of ARC.

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- Inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of ARC through the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
 - Inter-sessional work through the AUC-NEPAD/NPCA and its Executive Committee for continuity between biennial meetings.
 - Structured and focused deliberations and interventions during sessions.
 - Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
 - Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow up to, the MYPOW.
 - Informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of Council.