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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-fourth Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February - 3 March 2016

Provisional Annotated Agenda

(A) SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING

29 February-1 March 2016 (morning)

Introductory Items

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Appointment of the Rapporteur(s)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Ministerial Meeting items from 3 to 6 on page 5)

Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

8. Challenges and Perspectives for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

During 2015, the Latin America and Caribbean region has fulfilled both the MDG and the World Food Summit (WFS) targets by, respectively, reducing by half the proportion and the number of persons suffering from hunger. This is chiefly as a result of the high political commitment in the region; the positive results from a combination of economic growth and strengthened social protection systems; the formulation and implementation of diverse and articulated public policies, with complex but participatory mechanisms of governance; and the solidarity among countries of the region expressed through South-South Cooperation actions. The agenda set by the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognizes these advances and signals new challenges to achieve the different dimensions of food insecurity (availability, access, utilization and stability) for the region: the total eradication of hunger (the region still has 34 million people suffering from hunger); confronting themes of obesity and others related to poor nutrition; strengthening the formulation of healthy habits with political initiatives; ensuring sustainability in the habits of production and

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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



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consumption of foods; promoting initiatives for assuring food safety and quality, and reducing food losses and waste; and innovation in systems for monitoring food and nutrition security, among others. Regarding poverty, the developing world still recognizes that more than 1,200 million people are still under the poverty line, almost 80 percent of whom are in rural areas. In Latin America 52 percent of the rural population is poor, and although the overall regional poverty indicators have declined over the past 20 years, due to the combination of factors described above, high inequality still persists among and within countries. The 34th FAO Regional Conference will look to create a balance for the next steps in the fight against hunger and rural poverty.

9. Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation

In Latin American and Caribbean countries more than half of rural people live in poverty, therefore, sustainable rural transformations that go beyond agricultural development are needed. Rural poverty and food insecurity are closely intertwined problems that need to be tackled through holistic approaches for rural territorial development including institutional, social and technological innovation. Multi-sectorial policy approaches need to be implemented to dynamize and diversify the rural economies. Articulating agricultural, social, economic and environmental policies at territorial level may allow to deal with poverty, hunger and food insecurity more efficiently. Strengthening rural organizations, local value chains and food systems, as well as improving family farmer access to productive resources, infrastructure, finance and markets combined with access to social protection and non-agriculture employment opportunities, is a key strategy. Finding better ways for family farmers to prevent, manage and overcome environmental and social risks is of paramount importance to improve livelihoods resilience. Addressing the gap in access to productive resources, services and economic opportunities for rural women, youth and indigenous peoples is essential to achieve food security, rural poverty eradication and sustainable rural territorial development.

10. Challenges for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the New Framework of Sustainable Development Goals

The presence of disasters caused by natural phenomena, transboundary diseases of animals and plants, and socio-economic crisis are factors that threaten food security and nutrition, even with the presence of climate change which increases and diversifies the magnitude and impacts of these factors. In particular for the dimension of stability, those are issues of high relevance for food security. Taking concrete actions to reduce the fragility of current food production systems and their vulnerability to disasters is already an important part of the regional and global political agenda and dialogue for improving sustainable development, facing the new commitments of the countries in a global post-2015 agenda. Special attention will be paid in the discussion to the small islands in the Caribbean (Samoa Pathway).

Programme and Budget Matters

11. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region and Regional Strategic Review

The Regional Conference will consider the results of FAO's work in the region, including how FAO Regional Initiatives have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2014-15, and will provide guidance on regional priorities for the 2016-17 biennium and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. The discussion will be informed by results of FAO's work at Outcome level (extract from the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15), the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015, and a Regional Strategic Review encompassing the major trends, challenges and development objectives for food and agriculture, also taking into account the priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and Regional Initiatives.

12. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of the FAO Country Offices network in the region will be reviewed, and recommendations will be formulated in enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

13. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. It will entail a discussion on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) as a Governing Body.

Other Matters

14. Date and Venue of the 35th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. Any other matters

INFORMATION NOTES¹:

- ***The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2015***

The most recent FAO estimates indicate that the number of people worldwide who are unable to meet their dietary energy needs has declined to a total of 795 million people, representing 216 million people fewer than in 1990-92, or just over one person in every nine, in terms of the world population (almost 11 percent). In the developing regions, significant progress has been made in achieving the target of the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) on halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are still 34.3 million people who suffer from hunger. However, this is considered as the region that has made the greatest progress in the world, with 17 of the 33 countries concerned achieving the hunger reduction threshold, and the proportion of hungry people in Latin America and the Caribbean falling from 14.7 percent to 5.5 percent since 1990.

- ***Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)***

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) was a high-level intergovernmental meeting that focused global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Participants were from governments, civil society and the business community. In addition to plenary sessions, several pre-conference events for parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, provided a forum for participants to delve deeper into specific nutrition issues. The two main outcome documents – Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action – were endorsed by participating governments at the Conference, committing world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

- ***Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2014-15***

Information will be provided on FAO's most significant results and achievements in the region in each of its priority areas, and in response to the demands for technical cooperation raised by different Member Nations in the respective programmes.

¹ If they so wish, delegates may comment on Information Notes under "Any other matters".

- ***Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions***

The conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean will be assessed with regard to: (i) policy and regulatory matters and (ii) programme and budget matters. The Regional Fora include: the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC).

- ***Outcomes of the Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Seeking to gain better understanding of the role that agroecology can play in achieving an end to hunger and malnutrition, FAO organized the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition¹ in September 2014 in Rome, Italy. The Symposium brought together 400 scientists, policy makers, farmers' organizations, the private sector and NGO representatives. Following its recommendations a regional meeting was held in Brasilia, Brazil with over 130 participants from governments, civil society, regional organizations, academia and research institutions from 14 countries. The Regional Conference is invited to take into account its outcomes and recommendations.

- ***Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

This information note will present the outcomes of the CFS, as well as initiatives related to Responsible Agricultural Investment and the Agenda for Action in countries in protracted crises.

- Preparation, discussion and adoption of a draft Report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Meeting.

¹ The final report of the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4327e.pdf>

(B) MINISTERIAL MEETING

1 March (afternoon) -3 March 2016

- 3. Statement by the Director-General**
- 4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**
- 5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Statement of the Chairperson of the 33rd LARC will provide a synopsis of the outcome of deliberations at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, June 2015) and the 153rd Session of the FAO Council (Rome, November-December 2015) as they relate to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

- 6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

An overview will be provided of the main outcomes of the 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions, and a report on all activities undertaken in 2014-15.

- 7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation**

The spokesperson of the Civil Society consultation will present the statement/declaration of the outcome of the consultation

➤ **Review and Debate on the Report of the Conference**

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed, discussed and subsequently endorsed. The discussion will encompass:

- I. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters
- II. Programme and Budget Matters
- III. Other Matters

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

PANEL DOCUMENTATION:

- ***Panel 1: Challenges and Perspectives for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

The Ministerial Panel will set out for discussion the experience of the countries regarding public policy strategies for confronting poor nutrition in all its dimensions: hunger, obesity, food safety and respective regulatory frameworks. Experiences that are complemented by measures of health, education, environment and agriculture policies will be prioritized. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/2.

- ***Panel 2: Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation***

The ministerial panel will discuss challenges and innovative approaches to aligning agricultural and food security policies with broader territorial development strategies to eradicate rural poverty and achieve sustainable rural development. Key institutional and policy issues for sustainable development of rural territories, including, policies and strategies to improve rural infrastructure and local value chains and food systems; policies to facilitate access of family farmers to productive resources, rural services and markets; promotion of social protection and employment opportunities for rural women and youth, and policies for risk management and resilience, among others, will be discussed. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/3.

- ***Panel 3: Challenges for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the New Framework of Sustainable Development Goals***

Each year, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are affected by natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, in addition to epidemics and transboundary diseases of animals and plants, and socio-economic crisis. These events result in loss of lives, property and livelihoods, and therefore weaken the food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable populations. Risk management, climate change adaptation and promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development are the major challenges of the LAC countries for ensuring food security. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/4.

- ***Panel 4: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Eradication of Hunger, Rural Poverty and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean***

In recent years the flow of South-South and Triangular cooperation among countries in the region has been expanded. However, the exchange of knowledge and experiences in areas related to hunger eradication, poverty reduction and sustainable development are still insufficient to contribute to strengthening capacities and processes on priority countries. The ministerial panel will discuss innovative experiences to promote the South-South Cooperation (SSC) [bilateral, triangular and with other partners]; regional and subregional mechanisms for better coordination and complementarity of actions that allow the increase of the SSC, including funding. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/INF/12.