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منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

## Thirty-third Session

Rome, Italy 9-13 May 2016

## Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for the Near East

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All FAO Regional Conferences prepare a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) covering a period of at least four years. The first MYPOW for the NERC covered the period 2012-2015. Member countries adopted the MYPOW at the 31st Session of NERC in 2012.

This document presents the MYPOW for the Regional Conference for the Near East for the period of 2016-2019.

### Guidance sought from the Regional Conference:

The Regional Conference may wish to endorse the MYPOW 2016-19.

## I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

1. The overall objectives reflect the enhanced role of Regional Conferences 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.

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2. In this context, the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It also conducts regional-level assessments, to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food and nutrition security. It 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.
3. The regional commissions review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of agriculture, land and water (ALAWUC), forestry and range (NEFRC), fisheries and aquaculture (RECOFI and GFCM) and desert locust (CRC). Their recommendations complement and inform the discussions during NERC on the Programme of Work and Regional Priority Framework.
4. In 2014, the Regional Conference reviewed and approved its MYPOW for 2012-15.
5. A MYPOW for 2016–19 has been developed as follows for consideration by Members:

## **II. RESULTS**

### **A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning**

6. Result: Regional Conference recommendations and guidance on regional priorities, programmes, initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of regional interest, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the FAO Council and Conference, as appropriate.
7. Indicators and targets:
  - Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Regional Conference to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the Region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators.
  - Regional Conference recommendations relating to the regional priorities and FAO's Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and Conference reports.
  - Regional Conference guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant bodies.
8. Outputs:
  - Results-based information on past programme implementation and achievement will be provided to the Regional Conference. More detailed progress on regional activities implemented under the Regional Offices' responsibility, including on the Regional Initiatives, would also be available for the Regional Conferences' review.
  - Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budget for the Region.
9. Activities:
  - Review implementation of the regional priorities in the region.
  - Review decisions and recommendations from the regional commissions and other relevant institutions and meetings in the region.

- Review the performance of the Organization in the region, including the past programme implementation and achievement at the Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives, Regional Initiatives, completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and the effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
- Advise on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

10. Working methods:

- Liaison with relevant statutory bodies, including the regional commissions and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultations among Member countries as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersessional period.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the Near East Regional Group.
- Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the ADG/Regional Representative.

**B. Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters**

11. Result: Regional Conference recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.

12. Indicators and targets:

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

13. Output:

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

14. Activities:

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting on the mandate of FAO.
- Consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies, including regional commissions, and meetings of relevance to the region.
- 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.

15. Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region.
- Liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the Near East Regional Group.
- Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the ADG/Regional Representative.

### C. Work planning and working methods

16. Result: The Regional Conference operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.
17. Indicators and targets:
- Regional Conference agendas are focused.
  - Regional Conference provides a forum for a greater and more informal exchange of views and experience among delegates, and also with major regional organizations.
  - Regional Conference decisions are taken by consensus.
  - Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
  - Regional Conference documents adhere to new corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
  - Seventy percent of Member countries generally participate at a senior level in the Regional Conference.
18. Outputs:
- Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Regional Conference adopted in 2016.
  - Progress report on the Regional Conference MYPOW provided at the last Council session of the biennium<sup>1</sup>.
  - Methods of work of the Regional Conference kept under review and improvements sought regularly.
19. Activities:
- Consult with Members on agenda and format of the Regional Conference.
  - Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
  - Review the Rules of Procedure for the Conference.
  - Preparation of the MYPOW, with performance indicators and progress reports on the MYPOW to the FAO Council and Conference.
  - Regular review of methods of work, including performance measurement.
  - Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.
20. Working methods:
- Consultations with Members, through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference as appropriate.
  - Inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference through the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
  - Structured and focused deliberations during sessions.
  - Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
  - Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow up to, the MYPOW.
  - Informal meetings of the Chairperson and members of the Near East Regional Group and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of Council.

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<sup>1</sup> See document CL, 148/9, paragraphs 25-26; <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/029/MJ274E.PDF>