



FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-fifth Session

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018

Provisional Annotated Agenda

I. SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

5-6 March 2018

A. Introductory Items

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

(Please see Ministerial Meeting items 3-9 on page 4)

B. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

10. Ending Hunger and Eradicating all Forms of Malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

The rapid and far-reaching transformation of food systems in the region has had many positive effects, but it is also at the basis of contemporary dynamics of malnutrition. The most recent FAO reports indicate that food insecurity has increased in Latin America and the Caribbean in the last three years, and that rising overweight and obesity rates have become a major public health threat.

The Regional Conference will discuss how to strengthen the Food and Nutrition Security Plan of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (FSN-CELAC) and other strategies that can help countries of the region to achieve Zero Hunger, while also promoting food systems that favour healthy diets.

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11. Towards a Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Rural Development

The significant structural transformation of rural areas in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean has provided numerous benefits for the development of these countries. However, this transformation has also excluded millions of young people who lack access to decent jobs, while extreme poverty continues to limit the opportunities of a quarter of the rural population in the region. Women, indigenous peoples and the Afro-descendant population have systematically fewer opportunities and a lower level of well-being, while territorial inequalities perpetuate and increase poverty at the local level, promoting social and political conflicts, environmental degradation and insecurity.

In many countries, migration has been a central element in the survival strategies of rural households in Latin America, which presents an opportunity, not only to take advantage of the productive potential of remittances, but also to ensure regular and safe channels of international migration - including measures to address seasonal migration in agriculture - and to generate dynamics that benefit from the contribution of migrants who return to their communities of origin. In addition, for migration to be a truly voluntary option, its causes, which include the lack of opportunities, climate risks and insecurity, must be addressed in an integrated manner, especially in those territories that are considered "poles of expulsion".

Traditional strategies of rural development are not enough to guarantee a structural transformation that is sustainable and socially inclusive in rural areas. However, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a framework, supported by the United Nations, to guide an inclusive and sustainable structural transformation in rural areas.

12. Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture

The growth in global demand for food and other agricultural products has created an important challenge for the agriculture sector to increase productivity and production. However, today this is impossible without considering the relationship between agriculture and climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources. In other words, the challenge is to achieve resilient agriculture with a low carbon footprint that is compatible with the conservation of biodiversity. In order to meet this challenge, new approaches to cooperation are required. In particular, the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean face a particularly complex environmental challenge.

The Regional Conference will analyse the experiences of countries that have achieved a resilient and sustainable agriculture sector, which can help FAO to improve its efforts in this area, including providing technical assistance so that countries can access different sources of green funding.

C. Programme and Budget Matters

13. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2016-2017 and will provide guidance on the priorities for 2018-2019 and beyond. The discussion will be informed by the results of FAO's work in the region, the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 approved by the FAO Conference in July 2017; priorities and recommendations of the Regional Commissions; and the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the private sector.

14. Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's Decentralized Offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at regional and country level. The paper will also refer to the 40th Anniversary of FAO country representations (2017-2019), for which commemorative activities are being undertaken to highlight the importance of FAO's field programme and long-term presence through country offices across the region.

D. Other Items

15. Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The implementation of the Multi-Year Work Programme (MYPOW) is a mechanism designed to enhance the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. This will involve a discussion about the procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) as a Governing Body.

16. Date and Venue of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

17. Any other matters

Information Notes¹:

17.1 The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2017

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World provides for the first time an overview on the situation of countries in relation to SDG 2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this year's edition, the document also analyses the importance of peace, conflicts and food security and nutrition.

17.2 Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)) and Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

Following the adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition by the Second International Conference on Nutrition in April 2016, the UN General Assembly declared 2016-2025 to be the Decade of Action on Nutrition with the aim of creating a favourable policy environment to turn national commitments into actions. In this regard, a Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Eating and several national and regional consultations were held in 2017 to identify possible public policy interventions to promote sustainable food systems for improved nutrition.

17.3 Report on FAO activities in the Region 2016-17

A report will be presented on FAO's most significant results and achievements in the region in each of its priority areas and in response to demands for technical cooperation raised by different Members in their respective programmes.

17.4 Regional Initiatives and Strategic Programme Focus in the Subregions of the Caribbean, Mesoamerica and South America

This information note outlines how the Regional Initiatives and Strategic Programme respond specifically to the challenges and opportunities that characterize each subregion, and is

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

designed to support subregional dialogues on FAO's focus and planned results for 2018-19 among countries of South America, the Caribbean, and Mesoamerica.

17.5 Summary of the Recommendations of Regional 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) administrative and budgetary matters. The Regional Fora include: the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC).

17.6 Progress in Implementing the SAMOA Pathway: Global Action Programme

Following the official launch of the SAMOA Pathway Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States during the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017, FAO has begun implementation of the GAP through an Interregional Initiative. This information note presents background on the development of the GAP and information on progress to date in implementation of the Interregional Initiative. Guidance is sought on activities to be carried out under the Caribbean component of the Interregional Initiative.

17.7 Notes on emerging issues

A series of notes on emerging issues will be presented jointly, in summary form, for information, highlighting progress relating to cross-cutting themes of importance to member countries. These include "Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for a Sustainable Future: Leaving No One Behind", "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture", "Regional Progress towards Gender Equality in Food and Agriculture" and "Integrating to Innovate: Resource Mobilization and Partnership Building for Sustainable Development".

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

II. MINISTERIAL MEETING

6-8 March 2018

- 3. Statement by the Director-General**
- 4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**
- 5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)**

The Statement of the Chairperson of the 34th Session of LARC will provide a synopsis of the outcome of deliberations at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, July 2017) and the 158th Session of the FAO Council (Rome, December 2017) as they relate to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

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

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 43rd and 44th Plenary Sessions, and will report on all activities undertaken in 2016-17.

7. Statement by the Spokesperson for the Civil Society Consultation

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

8. Statement by the Spokesperson for the Private Sector Consultation

The spokesperson for the Private Sector Consultation will present the statement/declaration of the outcome of the consultation.

9. Statement by the Spokesperson for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger

The spokesperson for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger will present their challenges for the coming years

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: Ending Hunger and Eradicating all Forms of Malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The current status of hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean presents a slight deterioration after many years of continuous improvement, while overweight and obesity rates continue to increase. Achieving SDG2 in 2030 requires the implementation of a new public policies agenda in the region and the transformation of current food systems seems to be an important part of the solution. The panel will facilitate a multi-sectoral dialogue and exchange of visions, strategies and initiatives between Members in order to have a better understanding of different options to face this double challenge. The Panel will discuss document LARC/18/2.

- **Panel 2: Towards a Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Rural Development**

Considering the need to renew the rural development policy agenda with the dual purpose of eradicating rural poverty and the economic and social revitalization of rural territories through innovative strategies, the Panel will focus on the analysis of policies implemented to promote sustainable rural development, its link with current socio-economic dynamics of rural areas, territorial inequalities and the productive potential of households and territories. The Panel will discuss document LARC/18/3.

- **Panel 3: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture**

The Ministerial Panel will focus on how the agriculture sector can continue to increase productivity in response to the rising global demand for food while reducing environmental degradation, promoting the conservation of natural resources, adapting to climate change and reducing emissions. Panellists will be requested to share innovative actions being taken in their own countries. The Panel will discuss document LARC/18/4.