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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-fifth Session

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5–8 March 2018

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

Summary

The Regional Conferences are preparing a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) covering a minimum period of four years in line with the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for improving the governing bodies. A MYPOW was prepared for the 35th session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and was adopted by the Member States in 2016.

The version set out below is a slightly revised version of the MYPOW covering the 2018–2019 period.

Guidance sought:

To approve the revision of the MYPOW for the period 2018–2021.

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I. Overall objectives

1. The overall objectives reflect the enhanced role of Regional Conferences in the structure of FAO's governing bodies. In particular, the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the Region in matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate and offers guidelines and recommendations on global policy and regulatory matters to the FAO Conference and on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization to the Council.
2. In this context, the Regional Conference provides regional perspectives on FAO strategies and priorities and formulates specific recommendations on regional activities, which also contribute to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It also conducts regional-level assessments with the aim of improving the sustainability of agriculture and food and nutrition security. It oversees the functions and activities of FAO in the Region in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization, cooperating where appropriate with the relevant partner organizations.
3. The regional commissions review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of forestry (Latin American and the Caribbean Forestry Commission [LACFC]), livestock (Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean [CODEGALAC]), and fisheries (Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean [COPESCAALC] and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission [WCAFC]). They act as technical advisory bodies of the Regional Conference and their recommendations complement and inform the discussions during sessions on the Programme of Work and Regional Priority Framework.
4. At its Thirty-fourth session in 2016, the Regional Conference endorsed the MYPOW for the 2016–2017 period to frame the work of the Regional Conference and encourage further efforts to follow up on the Conference's recommendations and continue the Organization's strategic direction, with the aim of achieving the results identified in the framework of regional priorities, with support from the strategic programmes.

II. Results

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

Result:

5. Regional Conference recommendations and guidance on regional priorities, programmes, 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.

Indicators and targets:

6. Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Regional Conference to 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.
7. Regional Conference 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 FAO Council and Conference reports.
8. Regional Conference guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant bodies.

Output:

9. Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budget for the Region.

Activities

10. Review implementation of the Regional Priority Framework and the PWB in the Region.

11. Review decisions and recommendations from the regional committees and other relevant bodies and meetings in the Region (namely LACFC, CODEGALAC, COPACO and COPESSAALC) and the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets.

12. Review the performance of the Organization in the Region, including the effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.

13. Advise on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the Region, including specific priorities for FAO work and regional initiatives.

Working methods:

14. Liaison with relevant statutory bodies, including the regional commissions and other institutions in the Region.

15. Informal consultations among member countries as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.

16. Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Group.

17. Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative.

B. Monitoring of and advice on policy and regulatory matters**Result:**

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

Indicators and targets:

19. Clear and timely recommendations included in the Regional Conference report.

20. Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

Output:

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

Activities:

22. 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.

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

Working methods:

26. Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the Region.
27. Liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the Region.
28. Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the LAC Regional Group.
29. Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative.

III. C. Work planning and working methods

Result:

30. The Regional Conference operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

31. Regional Conference agendas are focused.
32. Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to members in a timely manner.
33. Regional Conference documents adhere to new institutional report presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
34. Member countries generally participate at the appropriate level in the Regional Conference.

Outputs

35. Endorsement of the MYPOW for the Regional Conference in 2018.
36. Methods of work of the Regional Conference are kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

Activities:

37. Consult with Member countries on the agenda and format of the Regional Conference.
38. Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
39. Review the Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conference.
40. Preparation of the MYPOW, with performance indicators and presentation of programme progress reports to the FAO Council and Conference.
41. Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
42. Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.

Working methods:

43. Consultations with Members, through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference, as appropriate.
44. Intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference through the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
45. Structured and focused deliberations during sessions.
46. Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
47. Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow-up to, the MYPOW.
48. Informal meetings of the Chairperson and members of the LAC Regional Group and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of Council.