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منظمة  
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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Thirty-fifth Session

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018

## Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

### Summary

The FAO Strategic Framework, revised in 2016-2017, gives strategic direction to FAO's technical work under its five Strategic Programmes in order to effectively address the priorities in the region and to ensure the delivery of results at country level. Over the last biennium, the work of the five Strategic Programmes under the Regional Initiatives (RIs) made significant strides towards achieving results in the region. The RIs have been consolidated as the mechanism for implementing FAO's work, based on the priorities defined by Member States. The Organization has managed to coordinate all of FAO's work in Latin America and the Caribbean, at the national, subregional and regional levels, within the programming framework developed around the five strategic programmes, which in turn is implemented through the three regional initiatives. Each of the outcomes committed to at the country, subregional or regional level is framed by this scheme.

As the objectives that Member States have set for the Organization are ambitious and to be pursued over the medium and long terms, the regional priorities for 2018-2019 will be maintained and adjusted to achieve them.

RI 1 "Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean" will have two major priorities in the biennium: (1) to recover Latin America's progress towards the Zero Hunger goal, with a main emphasis on rural territories that still have levels of food and nutritional insecurity that are well above their respective national averages; and (2) to halt and start to reverse the alarming increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity. RI 2 "Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development" will focus on supporting inclusive rural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean. RI 3 "Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management" will continue targeting its efforts on supporting countries in two priority areas: (1) Increase the sustainability and climate-change resilience of agriculture; and (2) Increase financing and capacities for climate change adaptation in agriculture.

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### **Recommendations for the Regional Conference:**

- Recognize the importance of the Strategic Framework in guiding FAO's technical work in order to address priorities in the region and to ensure the effective delivery of results at national level.
- Recognize the work completed through the Strategic Programmes and the results achieved by FAO in 2016-17 under the Regional Initiatives and other key areas of work in response to the main priorities identified by the 34th session of the Regional Conference.
- Take note of the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Take into account the key role of the Strategic Programmes in integrating the Organization's technical work at regional and national levels in order to address the challenges of multifaceted development and to provide countries with efficient and appropriate support on the SDGs.
- Support the important contribution of the Strategic Programmes to the delivery of normative products and services, such as regulations, voluntary guidelines and legal instruments, at national and regional levels.
- Provide guidance on areas of regional priority for FAO's work in 2018-19 and beyond based on major trends and challenges in the region, including the SDGs and climate change, and experience with the Regional Initiatives in 2016-17.

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Reviewed Strategic Framework of FAO<sup>1</sup> and its Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19<sup>2</sup> were approved by the FAO Conference in its 40th Session in July 2017. The Conference appreciated the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

2. The reviewed Strategic Framework was developed through a consultative strategic thinking process during 2016, taking into account the strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization. This process involved identification of global trends expected to frame agricultural development over the medium term,<sup>3</sup> and sectoral and regional trends arising from regional strategic reviews and deliberations of the FAO Regional Conferences<sup>4</sup> and Technical Committees;<sup>5</sup> derivation of main challenges expected to be faced by countries and development actors in food and agriculture in the coming years; analysis of main global developments setting the overall context in which FAO operates; and the implications of these challenges and developments for FAO's Strategic Objectives in the context of FAO's basic attributes and core functions. The review also took into account the major global developments that occurred in 2015-2016, most importantly, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, and entry into force of the Paris Agreement which will provide the broad

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<sup>1</sup> C 2017/7 ([www.fao.org/pwb](http://www.fao.org/pwb))

<sup>2</sup> C 2017/3 ([www.fao.org/pwb](http://www.fao.org/pwb))

<sup>3</sup> FAO 2016. *The future of food and agriculture – Trends and challenges*. Rome.

<sup>4</sup> C 2017/14, C 2017/15, C 2017/16, C 2017/17, C 2017/18, C 2017/LIM/1

<sup>5</sup> C 2017/21, C 2017/22, C 2017/23, C 2017/24

context in which FAO will operate and adapt for enhanced delivery and impact of the Organization's work.

3. The reviewed Strategic Framework provided the basis for fine tuning the conceptual framework and theory of change of FAO's five Strategic Objectives (SO) within the context of the Organization's vision, attributes and core functions. The Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 set out the programmatic framework and resources for planning, implementing and monitoring results through indicators and targets, including the contribution of FAO's work toward 40 SDG targets. Web Annex 1 provides an overview of FAO's Strategic Programmes, including their alignment with the SDGs.

4. FAO Regional Initiatives (RIs) serve as a mechanism to ensure effective delivery and impact of FAO's work on the key priorities of each region contributing to the Strategic Objectives. The 2016 Regional Conference considered FAO achievements in the region and identified priority areas to be considered for the three Regional Initiatives in 2016-17: Support to the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean; Family Farming and Inclusive Food Systems for Sustainable Rural Development; and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.

5. It is proposed to maintain and fine tune these Regional Initiatives, which support the SDGs and the commitments in 2018-19. RI 1 "Hunger free Latin America and the Caribbean" will focus on improving the enabling policy and institutional environment to address the relevant SDG targets. RI 2 "Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development" will focus on social protection and productive inclusion through the support to the formulation and implementation of integrated and multisector strategies to eradicate rural poverty. RI 3 "Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management" started in 2016, will continue in its current form, with an emphasis on sustainable use of natural resources, risk management strategies, governance and legislation on sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and climate change.

6. In this context, the Regional Conference gives Member States an opportunity to advise on the results and priorities of FAO's work in the region through the Organization's Strategic Programmes (SPs). The current document is divided into the following two main sections.

- Section II describes how, over the 2016-17 biennium, the SPs helped countries to achieve results in line with agreed priorities for FAO's work in the region.
- Section III provides an overview of trends and developments in the region going forward and describes regional priorities for FAO's work and how they can be addressed by the SPs through Regional Initiatives. It also includes a regional vision for 2018-19 of the goals relating to SP achievements.

## **II. Achievements in the Region**

7. In response to the programmatic recommendations made by the Regional Conference at its thirty-fourth session, on the need to maintain the Organization's strategic direction and support the strategic planning process, FAO has managed to articulate all of its work in Latin America and the Caribbean at the national, subregional and regional levels within the programming framework developed around the five SPs, which is implemented through the three RIs. Each of the 372 outcomes committed to at the country, subregional or regional level is framed by this scheme. At the country level, all expected results must stem from the agreements registered in the respective Country Programming Framework.

8. Also in response to the recommendation to strengthen implementation of the RIs, these have been consolidated as the mechanism for implementing FAO's work, based on the priorities defined by Member States. All of FAO's actions in the region in the 2016-2017 biennium are framed by one of

the three RIs, which efficiently articulate the work around each of the Organization's SPs at the national, subregional and regional levels.

9. The achievements relating to each Regional Initiative (with reference to the relevant Strategic Programmes) are described below. Details on follow-up to the recommendations of the 34th session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean can be found in document LARC/18/INF/10.

### **A. Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean**

10. RI 1 "Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean" drew together SPs 1, 2, 3 and 4 to promote national school meal programmes linked to nutritional education and public procurement from family farming in 11 countries.<sup>6</sup> It also articulated SPs 1 and 4 to support and consolidate the Regional Network of Public Food Supply and Marketing Systems, in which 12 countries<sup>7</sup> of the region actively participate in exchanging experiences on food supply and marketing.

### **B. Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development**

11. Similarly, RI 2 "Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development" coordinated the capacities and resources of SPs 2, 3 and 4, to promote synergies between social protection, agricultural sustainability and economic inclusion programmes for populations living in rural poverty in eight of the region's countries,<sup>8</sup> in addition to supporting the current process of constructing a subregional agenda on social protection and productive inclusion for the eight member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), within the framework of its Social Integration Secretariat. Moreover, SPs 3 and 5 have been coordinated to establish projects and financing initiatives to strengthen socioenvironmental development with a focus on rural poverty. With the support of SP 2, the Regional Agroecology Agenda has been consolidated among organizations and social movements, governments and academia across 18 countries in the region.

### **C. Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management**

12. RI 3 "Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management" coordinated the capacities and resources of SPs 2 and 5 to generate the voluntary guidelines for agroecological policies for Latin America and the Caribbean which attracted active participation by agricultural and environmental institutions from nine countries.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, at the request of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the capacities and resources of SPs 1, 2, 3 and 5 were combined to formulate the Regional Strategy for Disaster-risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and for Food and Nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. Pursuant to the recommendation to continue supporting CELAC and its food security plan, FAO provided technical assistance to the CELAC Pro Tempore Presidencies (Ecuador in 2015, Dominican Republic in 2016 and El Salvador in 2017).

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<sup>6</sup> Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>7</sup> The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>8</sup> Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia

<sup>9</sup> Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay.

14. Events held and outcomes achieved with FAO support include the following: (a) the Meeting on Climate Change, Food Security and Family farming (Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic) in August 2016; (b) approval of the Gender Strategy of the CELAC FNS Plan, under the auspices of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women (January 2017); (c) approval and implementation of the 2017 Action Plan of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development; (d) approval of the 2018 Action Plan of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development (San Salvador, El Salvador) in December 2017; and (e) approval of the Regional Strategy for disaster risk management in the agriculture sector, at the same meeting in December 2017.

15. With the aim of bolstering the CELAC FNS Plan in response to the growing prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in the region, the “100 Hunger-free Territories” proposal was launched, and training was completed for national public policy officials on Pillar 3 of the CELAC FNS Plan on nutritional well-being.

16. In response to the recommendation on support for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger (PFH), public supply systems, food loss and waste, and policy dialogues for family farming, PFHs have been set up in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in Haiti during this biennium. The PFHs made progress in the establishment of Legal Frameworks to underpin the Human Right to Food. Guatemala passed the Law on School Meals and Public Procurement from Family Farming; the Dominican Republic passed similar legislation and a Law on Food Security and Sovereignty; and Honduras passed a Law on School Meals.

17. The Regional Network of Public Food Supply and Marketing Systems (SPAA) was consolidated, with participation by governments from 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries.<sup>10</sup> In El Salvador, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has developed and is implementing a public policy on the strategic basic grain reserve, with FAO support.

18. On the issue of Food Loss and Waste (FLW), FAO and its allies have supported the following: (a) the formulation of 24 draft laws on FLW; (b) preparation of FLW baselines in 12 countries;<sup>11</sup> and (c) the formulation of an International Code of Conduct for the Prevention and Reduction of FLW.

19. In the case of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in response to the conference recommendation on these issues, technical cooperation was mobilized with FAO support from 14 countries and 62 institutions.<sup>12</sup> Costa Rica and Panama signed separate Memoranda of Understanding with FAO to mobilize South-South Cooperation.

20. Progress in South-South Cooperation has been possible thanks to the financial contributions made by some countries through the regional projects that are being implemented: Brazil (6 projects); Venezuela (2); Mexico (2) and Colombia (1). It has also been possible to mobilize South-South Cooperation with funds from the regular FAO programme, especially Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs).

21. FAO continued to work on strengthening policy dialogue mechanisms for family farming. At the subregional level, the Central American and Dominican Republic Commission on Family Farming (CCAF) within the CAC-SICA framework, the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Farming

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<sup>10</sup> The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<sup>11</sup> Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

<sup>12</sup> Mexico (with 18 participating institutions), Argentina (3), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2), Brazil (16), Chile (7), Costa Rica (3), Cuba (3), Panama (2) and Peru (2).

(REAF-MERCOSUR), the Andean Dialogue Group on Family Farming and the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development.

22. According to the conference recommendations, FAO continued to develop specific actions in response to the exceptional challenges faced by Haiti. Among several actions communal, departmental and national Food and Nutrition Security Plans were developed, an analysis was done of the institutional capacities in food and nutrition security of the decentralized offices of the Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR). Technical support and training was provided to the National Food Security Coordination (CNSA). The Ministry of National Education was supported in the development of a school feeding policy document. The Parliamentary Front against Hunger of Haiti (PFH) was officially launched in October 2017.

23. The effects of recent natural disasters<sup>13</sup> had an important impact on the food security situation. FAO is supporting the Government to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the resilience of coastal and agricultural systems of the Greater South, by restoring ecosystem services and creating/rehabilitating green infrastructure following a “ridge to reef” approach.

24. Based on the Regional Conference recommendations, FAO has begun to update the deployment of its resources in the network of decentralized Country Offices. The aims are to increase the resources available for technical assistance and to allocate the resources based on current needs and future trends rather than on past decisions.

25. The first two manifestations of this renewal of the network of decentralized Country Offices were the establishment of a Multiple Accreditation Office in Costa Rica (January 2017) and of a Partnership and Liaison Office in Mexico (October 2017), the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean. These two instances exemplify how the type of FAO Country Office can be adjusted to the different needs, expectations and priorities of member countries.

#### **D. Partnerships**

26. FAO has strengthened its work in partnership with other multilateral, government, civil society and, more recently, private sector organizations. During the 2016-2017 biennium, five alliances were formed that embrace some 150 of the leading specialists in the region. This is an innovative way of mobilizing capacities existing in the region, in support of Member States' demands and priorities.

27. The partnerships established thus far will target the following topics: (a) Eradication of rural poverty;<sup>14</sup> (b) Rural migration in Central America's Northern Triangle;<sup>15</sup> (c) Food systems, overweight and obesity; (d) Agricultural, food and rural climate-change resilience; (e) Governance and institutional framework for agricultural, food and rural transformation.

28. A process of rapprochement has been launched with the private sector, on issues linked to each of the three RIs. The first objective is to establish permanent dialogue mechanisms, to make it possible to identify shared interests and cooperation areas. In some countries, this process has progressed faster; in Argentina, for example, FAO, the Government of Argentina, Unilever and Carrefour have launched the #NoTiresComida [Don't throw food away] campaign, as part of the National Programme for the Reduction of Food Loss and Waste.

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<sup>13</sup> Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 and Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017.

<sup>14</sup> This partnership was set up as a joint initiative with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) involving participation from 25 organizations committed to rural poverty reduction

<sup>15</sup> Partnership established as a joint initiative with ECLAC involving participation by over 20 organizations related to the subject.

29. Regarding the RBAs, consistent with their goals, mandates, policies and rules, FAO, WFP and IFAD in Latin America and the Caribbean have committed to jointly improving their capacity to support Latin America and the Caribbean countries in which they work to achieve SDGs. FAO has signed regional memorandums of understanding with its respective IFAD and WFP counterparts. The initial aim is to start collective actions in three priority countries: Haiti, Guatemala and Colombia and the respective representatives at the country level have begun to discuss a way forward.

30. In coordination with REAF, SICA and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Rural Youth Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean has also been established, as an initiative jointly supported by FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

31. In terms of partnerships with the United Nations System, the conference recommended intensifying FAO's collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), to strengthen the process of monitoring progress towards the SDGs in the region. To this end, FAO increased its collaboration with ECLAC by submitting joint reports with that organization at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held in New York in July 2017.

32. A partnership has also been formed with ECLAC to address the challenges posed by migration in the countries of Central America's Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras) and Mexico, which is identifying rural territories with the highest net migration rates, along with policies and programmes to assist returnee populations reintegrate. ECLAC has also provided support to SICA in the formulation of an Intersectoral Strategy for Social Protection and Productive Inclusion, as well as training for public officials in Food and Nutritional Security, Social Protection and Rural Development.

33. In 2016 and 2017, the report *Panorama of food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean* was prepared with collaboration from PAHO/WHO. In addition to the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), the International Symposium on Food Systems for Healthy Eating was organized jointly with PAHO/WHO in El Salvador (September 2017).<sup>16</sup>

34. The overview and assessment of outcomes in the region in terms of outputs are provided in Web Annex 2: Contribution of outcomes in the region to the goals of the Strategic Objectives.

### III. Priority areas of work in 2018-19 and beyond

#### A. Overview of trends and developments in the region going forward, including 2030

35. In the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) agenda, Latin America and the Caribbean attained the goals on poverty and hunger, reducing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 66%, and cutting the proportion of the total population who are undernourished by almost 63%. The region also achieved the more ambitious goal agreed upon the World Food Summit (WFS) to halve the total number of people subject to hunger compared to the 1990s.<sup>17</sup>

36. Nonetheless, since 2011 progress has slowed and, between 2015 and 2016, the number of undernourished people in the region grew by 2.4 million, to a total of 42.5 million; while 38 million were suffering from serious food insecurity in 2016. <sup>18</sup>At the same time, between 2014 and 2016

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<sup>16</sup> Delegations from 17 of the region's countries participated and 14 preparatory national dialogues were held.

<sup>17</sup> FAO, 2015. *Panorama of food insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Santiago.

<sup>18</sup> Measured according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). FAO and PAHO. 2017a. *Panorama of food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017*. Santiago, FAO.

poverty grew by 18 million people, and extreme poverty increased by 13 million; in rural areas, the incidence of poverty also increased from 46.7% to 48.6% in the same period, and the extreme poverty rate rose from 20% to 22.5%.<sup>19</sup> Social and economic indicators are even worse among indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, rural youth and inhabitants of territories that are persistent laggards.

37. The current scenario in the region threatens achievement of the human right to adequate food, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable groups. If the trends of recent years continue, the region will be unable to eradicate hunger by 2025, as promised in the Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC FNS Plan), nor even by 2030 as called for in SDGs 1 and 2.

38. Overweight and obesity are two forms of malnutrition that are growing rapidly and, thus far, in an uncontrolled way in all countries of the region.

39. In the coming years, growth in the rural and agrifood economies will tend to accelerate, which will favour not only a quicker attainment of social inclusion objectives, but also the revitalization of rural territories. In this new growth cycle, the key concerns will be the threats and opportunities for rural employment embodied in technological changes, such as automation. Rural employment will continue to diversify with the growth of services and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing. Rural women will take advantage of these trends more than men.

40. Latin America and the Caribbean has a large productive capacity that positions it as a major global food supplier. The region is a net exporter of agrifood products. In 2016, exports of food and agricultural products surpassed US\$ 205 billion, while imports were close to US\$ 83 billion; this generated a trade surplus in excess of US\$ 122 billion (FAO, 2017). Since 2012, the region's net exports of agricultural commodities have outweighed those from North America in volume terms. However, the situation varies between countries and subregions.

41. Projections made by FAO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) show that the region will increase its net exports of these products by one third between 2017 and 2026, more than any other region in the world (FAO-OECD 2017).

42. In the coming years the phenomenon of international migration is likely to remain a priority on public agendas.

43. Ongoing progress in the fight against hunger and poverty in the region is threatened by climate change and increasing pressure on natural resources. For Central America, forecasts for 2020 predict cuts in basic grain production of around 25% and potential losses that could amount to 22% of agricultural GDP by the end of the twenty-first century. The damage caused by extreme events is already estimated at around 6% of GDP per year in some Caribbean countries, especially in the small island developing states. The South American regions that have warmer climates will be mostly affected; an increase of around 2.6°C could reduce revenues in dry farming by between 17% and 29%.<sup>20</sup>

44. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious plan of integrated action to move towards development styles where economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are a reality. At the global level, FAO has assumed a primary responsibility in SDGs 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 5 (gender equality), 6 (water), 7 (energy), 12 (responsible production and consumption), 13 (climate change), 14 (oceans) and 15 (terrestrial biodiversity). In the 2018-2019 Work Plan, each of the 372 outcomes being pursued through the Strategic Programmes and Regional

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<sup>19</sup> ECLAC, 2017. *Social Panorama of Latin America 2016*.

<sup>20</sup> ECLAC, 2015. *The economics of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Paradoxes and challenges of sustainable development*.



Initiatives are explicitly linked to one or more of these nine SDGs, so FAO will be in a position to report to Member States on its specific contributions.

### **B. Regional priorities for FAO's work and how they can be addressed by the Strategic Programmes through Regional Initiatives**

45. As the objectives that Member States have set for FAO are ambitious, they will be pursued over the medium and long term. Accordingly, the regional priorities for 2018-2019 mostly give continuity to the orientations of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Regional Conference. Similarly, the RIs comprehensively contribute to FAO's five Strategic Objectives, since they are based on mobilizing the SPs' capacities and resources to respond to the Member States' priority demands.

46. RI 1 "Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean" will have two major priorities in 2018-2019:

- (a) Recover Latin America's progress towards the goal of Zero Hunger, with a main emphasis on rural territories that still have levels of food and nutritional insecurity well above their respective national averages. In this priority, RI 1 will draw on the resources and capacities of FAO SPs 1 and 3. To achieve this, RI 1 will: (i) promote a renewal of political commitment to eradicate hunger, especially in the indicated territories; (ii) support the design and implementation of public policies and instruments to eradicate hunger, with emphasis on neglected territories and populations; (iii) support the mobilization of resources to address food insecurity in laggard territories; and (iv) support the generation and analysis of evidence for the evaluation of results and informed decision-making in terms of both programmes and SDG indicators.
- (b) Curb and start to reverse the alarming increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity, mobilizing the capacities of SPs 1, 2 and 4. For this purpose, it is proposed to: (i) encourage the production of healthy foods from family farming as much as possible; (ii) strengthen the supply of diverse and healthy food to the entire population, with emphasis on vulnerable sectors; (iii) strengthen trade to make it possible to increase the supply of safe and more nutritious food for the whole population, including partnerships with the private sector that stimulate the presence of diverse and healthy foods in supermarkets and other types of commercial chains, particularly in the urban and rural areas; (iv) use social protection programmes to overcome economic barriers to access sufficient and healthy food; (v) encourage food and nutrition education initiatives as well as the establishment of food guide; and (vi) support the design of policies and regulations that regulate the sale, packaging and advertising of foods with high levels of sugar, fat and salt, to discourage their consumption.

47. RI 2 "Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development" will have two major priorities in the 2018-2019 biennium: (a) contribute to a significant reduction of rural poverty and extreme poverty, with emphasis on the expansion of access to assets and services for the most vulnerable populations in the region's rural territories, and the link between social protection systems with productive inclusion strategies; and (b) support countries in revitalizing their rural territories, especially those that are lagging behind, in order to ease migratory pressures, offer opportunities for rural populations and reduce inequalities within and between territories.

48. Target its capacities on supporting an inclusive rural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean. While the emphasis on strengthening family farming will be maintained, an expanded rural economy perspective will be applied, unleashing the potential of rural territories and contributing to a significant reduction in poverty and extreme rural poverty. To achieve this, this regional initiative will be supported by the multidisciplinary teams of SP 2, and SP 3 mainly, but also those of SPs 1, 4 and 5. The specific lines of action will be:

- (a) Promote a renewed political commitment and higher-quality public investment for the eradication of rural poverty, with emphasis on the territories where there is a larger number of poor people or a higher poverty rate, or both.
- (b) Support the formulation and implementation of public policies fostering inclusive and sustainable territorial development that promote better living conditions for rural populations, addressing the problems of poverty, inequality, the productive inclusion of women, indigenous people and youth, the effects of climate change and the need to improve family farmers' engagement in markets.
- (c) Strengthen capacities for a renewed and strengthened institutional framework that enables national and subnational governments to take more effective and efficient action, overcoming barriers to indispensable interagency action, and the participation and empowerment of rural communities with emphasis on linkages between social protection systems and productive inclusion strategies.

49. RI 3 "Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management" will continue to direct its efforts to support countries in two priority areas:

- (a) Increase the sustainability and resilience of agriculture to climate change. This first priority will be addressed through two lines of action:
  - (i) Reduce the environmental impact of agrifood systems, with support from SPs 2, 4 and 5. This includes the promotion of a common vision for sustainable agriculture and food; the implementation of voluntary guidelines for agroecological policies, responsible governance of land tenure, fisheries and forests, and zero net deforestation; technical assistance for the reduction of the carbon and water footprint in agricultural and food systems and for the application of voluntary guidelines for sustainable land management; support for the design of subregional strategies to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (including the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement).
  - (ii) Promote and support disaster risk management for a resilient agriculture, mobilizing the capacities of SPs 1, 2 and 5. This includes supporting the CELAC pro tempore presidency in implementing the recently approved Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and for FNS; the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean programme of food reserves and provisioning in the event of catastrophes, and; the creation of a regional information system that complements current subregional early warning systems. Support will continue for both countries and subregional institutions<sup>21</sup> responsible for this issue in the formulation of policies and programmes.
- (b) Increase financing and capacity for climate-change adaptation in agriculture. This priority is divided into two lines of action:
  - (i) Development of policy frameworks and institutional capacities for climate-change adaptation in agriculture, with support from SPs 1, 2 and 5 and taking into account the SDGs. To this end, the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament will continue to receive support in drafting the Climate Change Framework Law with a focus on agriculture and FNS. Work will also be done in coordination with PFHs to improve the treatment of climate change adaptation and mitigation in national legislations. Similarly, support will be provided for the strengthening of

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<sup>21</sup> Central American Integration System (SICA); Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); Andean Committee for the Prevention of and Attention to Disasters (CAPRADE).

climate management teams and units, the reduction of hydrometeorological disaster risks and climate-change adaptation and mitigation.

- (ii) Support for the countries of the region in accessing international climate and environmental financing. Drawing mainly on SPs 2 and 5, FAO will boost its technical capacity and assistance to countries in the region that so require, irrespective of their development level, for the preparation, negotiation and execution of internationally funded climate/environmental investment projects in the areas of FAO's mandate.

50. The preparation of the FAO results framework for 2018-2021 was designed to focus attention on the Strategic Objectives, outcomes and outputs through their contributions to the relevant SDG targets and indicators, and to improve the quality of results chains, in order to address the main challenges that countries must face. This will provide a clear, consistent and concrete vision of FAO's contribution to supporting national implementation of SDGs and SDG oversight. Taking into account the focus of FAO's work on the regional priorities through the Regional Initiatives, Web Annex 3 presents the expected contribution of outcomes in the region to the goals of the strategic objectives.