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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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CONFERENCE

Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

Report of the Fifth Informal Regional Conference for North America (Washington, D.C., United States of America, 18-19 April 2018)

The North American Region highlights International Standards, Agricultural Innovations, and Impartial Analysis and Data during the 5th Informal Regional Conference for North America.

1. The Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) was developed in 2010 as a forum for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) North American Region (United States and Canada) to strengthen collaboration between Region members and the FAO.
2. The FAO does not implement programs in the North American Region. Nonetheless, the countries of the North American Region are active participants in the organization, including the FAO's numerous technical and governing body committees. Both countries have significant agricultural, fisheries, and forestry sectors and are fully committed to food security and the FAO's goal "to achieve food security for all, and make sure that people have regular access to enough high – quality food to lead active, healthy lives." In 2017 the two countries provided approximately 25 percent of FAO's assessed contributions and over 16 percent of FAO's voluntary contributions. Given this engagement, INARC meetings have sought to express the North American Region's views on FAO's work and activities globally as well as the Region's views on effective institutional governance.
3. The INARC is "informal" because the meeting has not been sanctioned by the FAO's Conference. The North American Region has chosen to keep this informal approach to significantly reduce the costs and administrative burden for the FAO. While the INARC is informal, the priorities detailed in the INARC report are considered to be a declaration of the North American Region's views regarding the FAO's strategic programming. The North American Region expects that these views be given equal consideration as the reports from other regional conferences in the FAO's budgetary and operational planning and reporting.

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FAO's work and role as a knowledge-based organization is paramount

4. The North American Region agreed throughout the 5th INARC that the FAO's ultimate value added is to serve as a **knowledge organization** on the issues of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and food security and nutrition. In North America's view, the world needs more of the FAO's work as a knowledge organization. The majority of the world's poorest and undernourished are *farmers*. Many other poor and undernourished people rely on fishing and forestry. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals farmers and other rural peoples must have the opportunity to produce more, earn better incomes, and simultaneously reduce their impact on the environment. Achieving these goals during a time of increasing climate change is a tremendous challenge that urgently needs the FAO's work as a knowledge organization.

Gender

5. The FAO should systematically mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls throughout its work and advocacy at a global, regional and national level. According to the FAO, worldwide, women constitute, on average, 43 percent of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. Of those women in the least developed countries who report being economically active, 79 percent report agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. The FAO has also observed that women usually have the least access to land and other resources, and are often among the most affected by food insecurity. The North American Region agreed that the FAO should develop an Action Plan to implement the minimum standards of the FAO's own *Policy on Gender Equality*. Further, the Organization should measure the impact of activities carried out under this Action Plan, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and report on progress made on a regular basis. The North American Region looks forward to the FAO's 2019 evaluation on the implementation of the *Policy on Gender Equality*.

Governance

6. During the INARC meeting the North American Region agreed on goals for the governance and management of the FAO. First and foremost, the countries agreed that the FAO must operate efficiently and effectively. In addition, North America agreed on the importance of the FAO's role as a neutral convener that emphasizes science- and evidence-based advice and decision making and advances its technical capacity on this basis. The FAO, as a Member-driven organization, should ensure that it focuses its work on issues where it has a comparative advantage and that are within its mandate, that effectively utilize its funding, and are internally consistent on messaging. The North American Region encourages the FAO to continue cooperation with other Rome-based agencies, and advance its partnerships with, academia, civil society, and private sector on joint programs and initiatives that further strengthen global food security.

Key Messages: International Standards, Agricultural Innovations, and Impartial Analysis and Data help Increase Global Food Security

7. FAO's priorities should be driven by the three global goals established by its members - eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; elimination of poverty; and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The world is challenged to increase agricultural productivity to feed a growing population, and FAO, with its Member-driven agenda and global scope, plays a critical role in meeting this challenge. To that end, the INARC stressed the importance of three key messages as the focus for FAO's work to strengthen global food security:

8. **International Standards:** The FAO should increase its support for: implementation and adoption of international standards established by the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); guidelines for practices in agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and the provision of information that enables countries and rural peoples to make smart choices. This work is critical to enabling farmers to take advantage of international trade, ensuring a safe food supply, and strengthening global food security.

9. **Agricultural Innovations:** The challenge of feeding a growing population while simultaneously reducing impacts on the environment is a concern to FAO's Membership at large. The INARC agreed that innovation is vital to achieving these goals. Correspondingly, the FAO should do more to enable people to successfully use the entire "toolbox" of innovations to build resilient and sustainable food systems, strengthen global food security, and increase the availability and affordability of nutritious foods.

10. **Impartial Analysis and Data:** The FAO is a leader in many issues concerning agriculture, fisheries, forestry, nutrition, and food security and its outputs influence how countries respond to crises and prepare for the future. Additionally, as the global repository for agricultural data and statistics and the UN's leading knowledge organization on agriculture, food security, and nutrition, FAO has a unique responsibility to provide all countries, regardless of size or development level, with information and analysis to support science-based decision-making. FAO must ensure that it fosters science-based and evidence-focused outputs, while increasing data and evidence in low-information topic areas. The North American Region agreed on the importance of the FAO's impartial, science-based analysis and guidance for Member States and called on the FAO to further increase its technical capacities.

I. Proceedings of the 5th INARC: Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

11. The 5th INARC was held in Washington, DC, on April 18-19, 2018.

12. Representatives from Canada and the United States, which make up the FAO's North American Region, participated in the Regional Conference alongside officials from FAO (via digital video conference) and FAO's Liaison Office in Washington (FAOLOW).

13. The Conference was co-chaired by Mr. Robert Macke, Deputy Administrator of the Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Mr. Doug Forsyth, Acting Director General, Trade Agreements and Negotiations, Market and Industry Services Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. A complete list of Conference participants is provided in *Appendix A*.

Adoption of the Agenda

14. The Conference adopted the agenda, as provided in *Appendix B*.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

15. Co-chair Macke opened the meeting by emphasizing that the United States is a strong supporter of the FAO and its mission and remains committed to combating poverty, food security, and malnutrition; improving agricultural productivity; expanding opportunities; and bettering the lives of families around the world. Mr. Macke stressed the importance of the INARC as an opportunity to exchange ideas that lead to tangible outcomes with positive results.

16. Co-Chair Forsyth shared opening remarks on behalf of Canada and expressed interest in pursuing inclusivity, productivity, and food security as part of the INARC discussion, as these are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (no poverty) and 2 (no hunger). Mr. Forsyth emphasized the need for the FAO to help all farmers and other rural people in the fishing and forestry sectors to increase their access to resources, sustainably produce more healthy food, get their goods to markets, and earn better incomes.

17. The Chargé d’Affaires from the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, Thomas Duffy, offered opening remarks on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. Chargé d’Affaires Duffy emphasized the North American Region’s new streamlined approach for priority setting, noted appreciation for support from other FAO Members on issues such as biotechnology, and emphasized the need to sustainably fund the Codex Scientific Advice Programme. He also noted appreciation for FAO’s commitment to a zero nominal growth budget and the Organization’s continued collaboration with other Rome-based agencies.

18. Dr. Beth Dunford, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Food Security, presented opening remarks on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Dr. Dunford highlighted the United States Government’s Feed the Future initiative and its three high level objectives of inclusive sustainable agriculture-led economic growth, strengthening resilience of people and systems, and improving nutrition. She also stressed the importance of using their development resources to assist countries on their journey to self-reliance and the necessity of working through partnerships, including with the FAO, to achieve the U.S. Government’s global food security objectives.

II. North American Strategic Priorities for the FAO

FAO’s Progress to Implement 2016 INARC Priorities

19. Dr. Dan Gustafson, FAO Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Programs, and Ms. Beth Crawford, Officer-in-Charge, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, presented an update on FAO’s progress to implement the outcomes from the 4th INARC in 2016. In particular, they focused on areas of change since the 4th INARC and noted that the strategic objectives in the 2018 Programme Implementation Report will align with the SDGs.

FAOLOW’s Role in Implementing North America’s Priorities

20. Mr. Vimlendra Sharan, Director for the FAO Liaison Office in Washington (FAOLOW), presented on FAOLOW’s role in implementing the North American Region’s priorities. Director Sharan highlighted FAOLOW’s advocacy and partnerships within the Region.

21. The Conference recognized FAO’s and FAOLOW’s responsiveness to implement past priorities. The North American Region appreciated FAOLOW’s communication and outreach work to strengthen relationships with stakeholders, including in Canada, and acknowledged that other regions have supported the priorities of the INARC. The Conference noted that its Members are available to assist FAOLOW in its outreach efforts.

22. As an outcome of the 2018 INARC process, the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed on detailed North American Regional priorities for 2018-2019, as provided in Appendix C. North America requests that the FAO report on implementation of these North American Regional priorities be received in advance of the sixth FAO informal Regional Conference for North America in 2020.

III. Agri-Food Trade and Global Food Security

Report of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2017-18

23. Dr. George Rapsomanikis and Dr. Boubaker Ben-Belhassen of the Economic and Social Development Department presented a preview of the 2017-18 State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) report, which will examine food security and climate change through a trade lens.

24. The Conference looked forward to the upcoming report and emphasized the importance for Members to utilize science, evidence and risk-based approaches, to develop policies that support resilience in the face of climate change and other stressors on global food security and agriculture. The Conference also challenged FAO to share the SOCO message of how trade fits into the larger context of strengthening global food security across FAO's internal departments as well as to convey that message beyond the SOCO report to Members.

Update on the Work of Codex Alimentarius, including the Scientific Advice Programme

25. DDG Gustafson, Codex Secretary Tom Heilandt, and Dr. Marcus Lipp, Senior Food Safety Officer and FAO's Joint Secretary for the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), Food Safety and Quality Unit, presented on the work of Codex Alimentarius and the Codex Scientific Advice Programme, including the need for broadening funding sources and the establishment of a Blind Trust Fund as one possible approach, as endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2017.

26. The Conference stressed the importance of the work of standard-setting organizations such as Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to food security and agricultural trade. The Conference emphasized the pressing need to address the backlog for the Codex/WHO joint expert bodies to establish standards and encouraged the FAO to emphasize the importance of considering measures (including the Blind Trust Fund) to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for WHO/FAO's Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme. A more detailed list of priorities under this area of work is provided in *Appendix C*.

IV. FAO, Gender Equality, and the Empowerment of Women

27. Ms. Junko Sazaki, Director, Economic and Social Development Department, presented on FAO's efforts to mainstream gender into programming and to implement its Policy on Gender Equality. In particular, Ms. Sazaki highlighted FAO's partnerships on gender work and the Organization's efforts to implement gender dimensions into FAO's strategic objectives.

28. The Conference took note of FAO's efforts to mainstream gender through the expansion of its evidence base, regional and country gender profiles and analysis of new trends; to integrate gender in international and national policy processes, noting in particular its work on gender-sensitive value chains; and to integrate gender-transformative approaches. It emphasized how gender equality and women's empowerment can contribute to increased agricultural productivity, increased nutritional outcomes, and poverty reduction.

29. The Conference encouraged the FAO to undertake gender impact assessment and effectively measure women's empowerment including on gender-sensitive value chains. In this regard, the Conference pointed to the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) as a solid women empowerment tool that should be used systematically to collect data and assess results and impact that will inform evidence-based policies. A more detailed list of priorities under this area of work is provided in *Appendix C*.

V. **FAO and Innovation, including Agroecology and Biotechnology**

Readout of the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology

30. Ms. Caterina Batello, Team Leader, Plant Production and Protection Division, presented a readout of the outcomes of the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology. Specifically, Ms. Bello highlighted FAO's new "Scaling-Up" agroecology initiative to be further discussed at the 26th Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to take place in October 1-5, 2018.

31. The Conference identified their support for agroecological approaches as a complementary tool with other agricultural innovations. However, the Conference also expressed some concern with the Symposium's procedures, including how the Chair's Summary of the Symposium had been developed. The Conference urged the FAO to work more closely with Member States on agroecology going forward.

Preview of the International Symposium on Innovation

32. Mr. Samy Gaiji, Chief of Research and Extension, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, presented a preview of the FAO Agricultural Innovation Symposium for Family Farmers: *Unlocking the Potential of Agricultural Innovation to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals* to be held November 21-23, 2018. Mr. Gaiji noted that the Symposium is directly related to requests by Members for FAO to play a catalytic role to foster and scale up agricultural innovation and help lift smallholder farmers out of poverty. Mr. Gaiji added that "family farmers" in the context of the symposium is not conditional on the size of the farm.

33. The Conference stressed the importance of agriculture innovation, including using all available tools as a means to achieve sustainable agricultural production. The Conference further emphasized the importance of outcomes and technology-neutral responses that are evidence-based and focused to the specific situation in which they are applied. The Conference stressed that the FAO is expected to be a neutral convener and stressed the need for FAO's advocacy and messaging around agricultural production methods to be inclusively balanced and science-based. The North American Region expressed that the Innovation Symposium can contribute significantly to highlight the strengths of the FAO and share valuable knowledge and best practices for sustainable agricultural production. A more detailed list of priorities under this area of work is provided in *Appendix C*.

VI. **FAO's Work in Emergencies and Emerging Threats**

Current Emergency Field Work, including Fall Armyworm

34. Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director, Technical Cooperation Department, Emergency Rehabilitation Division, offered an overview of FAO's work on resilience, emergencies, and emerging threats and noted that FAO's focus is on bringing people back from crisis points and permanently out of acute food insecurity.

35. Dr. Allan Hruska, Senior Agricultural Officer, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, presented an overview of the Fall Armyworm situation in Africa and FAO's efforts to help minimize the damages caused by the pest.

36. The Conference noted appreciation for the work the FAO is doing in emergencies and emerging threats and related Rome Based Agency collaboration in this area. The Conference observed that the large majority of voluntary contributions that Canada and the United States provide to the FAO are to support its emergency work. And, the Conference agreed with

FAO's assessment that, among the key drivers in the rise in hunger, conflict has played a role in reversing food security trends and acknowledged the need for FAO to continue its work in the area of resilience.

37. The Conference encouraged the FAO to undertake a systematic integration of gender-responsive approaches into FAO's resilience interventions and scale up approaches that have a gender-transformative impact. A more detailed list of priorities under this area of work is provided in *Appendix C*.

VII. Genetic Resources

38. The Conference noted the important and ongoing work supported by the FAO on Genetic Resources, and agreed as a follow-up to a more detailed discussion on this topic among North American experts.

VIII. FAOLW and the North American Region

39. The Conference appreciated Director Sharan's leadership and expressed enthusiasm about increased engagement with the North American Region, especially regarding FAOLW activities. The Conference agreed with FAOLW's interest in being more present outside of the North American capital cities of Washington, D.C. and Ottawa.

IX. Stakeholder Comments

40. The United States and Canada explained their mechanisms for soliciting stakeholder input that could be used to inform the priority-setting process. The United States Federal Register Notice closed May 18, 2018; Canada will accept comments online until June 1, 2018 and will prepare a report summarizing the input received from Canadian stakeholders. A summary of input that Canada had received to date was delivered.

X. Concluding Remarks

41. Both Canada and the United States reflected on the scope and complexity of the topics that the 5th INARC had considered. They further agreed on the need to engage the Secretariat and other Member States on an ongoing basis to foster dialogue on issues the INARC considered. Lastly, the Conference agreed that the next INARC would be held in Ottawa in 2020.

Appendix A**List of Attendees****Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

Doug Forsyth – Head of Delegation
Acting Director General
Trade Agreements and Negotiations
Market and Industry Services Branch

Daryl Nearing
Deputy Director
Multilateral Relations

Luis Barnola
Senior Multilateral Affairs Officer
Multilateral Relations

Via Videoconference

Brad Fraleigh
Manager
Multilateral Science Relations

Brent Wilson
Deputy Director
Technical Trade Policy Division

Tony McDougall
Deputy Director
Industry Services Group

Christine St-Onge
Senior Trade Policy Analyst
Technical Trade Policy Division

Annie Poitevin
Trade Policy Analyst
Technical Trade Policy Division

Embassy of Canada to Italy – Rome

Mi Nguyen
Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the
United Nations

Jennifer Fellows
Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the
United Nations

Embassy of Canada to the United States – Washington

Gizem Eras
Counselor (Agriculture and Fisheries)
Economic and Trade Policy

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Andrew McMaster
Assistant Director, Global and Northern Affairs

Max Kaplan
Policy Advisor

Health Canada (Via Conference call):

Jennifer Hughes Doucet
Manager, International Affairs

Bhavik Thakkar
Senior Regulatory Policy & Risk Management Specialist

Steven Savoury
Regulatory Policy & Risk Management Specialist

Global Affairs Canada (Via Conference call):

Sylvie Pedneault
Program Officer
International Humanitarian Assistance

Nathalie Rainville
Policy Analyst
Gender Equality Division

Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and la Francophonie

Rachel Lévesque
Advisor in International Relations
International Organizations and Global Issues Division

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Robert Macke – Head of Delegation
Deputy Administrator
Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Wendell Dennis
Acting Director
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Candice Bruce
Senior Policy Advisor
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Caitlin Blair
Policy Advisor
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Otto Gonzalez
Director
Center for International Programs, NIFA

Paul Trupo
Director
Global Policy Analysis Division, Office of Global Analysis, FAS

Joe Hain
Senior Trade Advisor
International Regulations and Standards Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Meghan Tremarche
Policy Advisor
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Mary Frances Lowe
Director
U.S. Codex Office

Diane DeBernardo
Nutrition Advisor
Office of Capacity Building and Development

Allison Thomas
Assistant Deputy Administrator
Office of Country and Regional Affairs, FAS

Caitrin Martin
Policy Advisor
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Paul Spencer
Director
New Technologies and Production Methods Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Melinda Belisle
Science Advisor
New Technologies and Production Methods Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Shoshana Griffith
International Trade Specialist
New Technologies and Production Methods Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Fan-Li Chou
USDA Biotechnology Coordinator
Agricultural Research Service

Micah Rosenblum
Agricultural project Coordinator
Office of Capacity Building and Development

Diane Wray-Cahen
Science Advisor
New Technologies and Production Methods Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Mark Freeman
International Trade Specialist
Plant Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Daniel Cook
Senior Policy Advisor
Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, FAS

Christa Speekmann
Assistant Director
International Technical & Regulatory Capacity Building, International Services, APHIS

Keith Channon
Food Safety Coordinator
Policy Coordination and Planning, Office of Capacity Building and Development, FAS

U.S. Department of State

John Tuminaro
Senior Food Security Advisor
Bureau of International Organization Affairs

Erin Boyer
Food Security Advisor
Bureau of International Organization Affairs

Elizabeth Buckingham
Secretary's Office for Global Food Security

Catherine Karr-Colque
Office of Conservation and Water
Bureau of Oceans and the Environment

Katlyn Scholl
Office of Conservation and Water
Bureau of Oceans and the Environment

Charles C. Brinkman
Foreign Affairs Officer
Bureau of Oceans and Environment

Deirdre Warner-Kramer
Foreign Affairs Officer
Bureau of Oceans and Environment

U.S. Mission– Rome

Thomas Duffy
Chargé d'Affaires

Emily Katkar
Political-Economic Section Chief

U.S. Agency for International Development

Beth Dunford
Assistant to the Administrator
Bureau for Food Security

David Hegwood
Director
Office of Global Engagement and Strategies, Bureau for Food Security

Meredith McCormack
Program Analyst
Office of Global Engagement and Strategies, Bureau for Food Security

Matthew Nims
Acting Director
Food for Peace

Michelle Snow
Program Policy Coordinator
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Food for Peace

Danielle Mutone-Smith
Acting Division Chief
Policy, Partnerships, Program & Communications, Office of Food for Peace

Regina Eddy
Program Officer
Country Strategy and Implementation Office, Fall Armyworm Task Force, Bureau of Food Security

Amahlin Shek
Budget and Communications Analyst
Emerging Pandemic Threats Program, Global Health Bureau

Angela Wang
Public Health Advisor
Emerging Pandemic Threats Program, Global Health Bureau

FAO Liaison Office for North America (FAOLOW)

Vimlendra Sharan
Director

Thomas Pesek
Senior Liaison Officer
FAO Liaison Office for North America

Gabriel Laizer
Strategic Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator

Florian Doerr
Associate Professional Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (via video conference)

Daniel Gufstafson
Deputy Director General-Programmes (DDG)

Beth Crawford
Officer-in-Charge
Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management (OSP)

Boubaker BenBelhassen
Director
Economic and Social Development Department, Trade and Markets Division (EST)

George Rapsomanikis
Senior Economist
Economic and Social Development Department, Trade and Markets Division (EST)

Tom Heilandt
Codex Secretary
Secretariat of the Codex *Alimentarius* Commission

Marcus Lipp
Senior Food Safety and Quality Officer
Food Safety and Quality Unit (AGFF)

Junko Sasaki
Director
Economic and Social Development Department, Social Policies and Rural Institutions
Division (ESP)

Caterina Batello
Team Leader
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Plant Production and Protection (AGP)

Dominique Burgeon
Director
Technical Cooperation Department, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE)

Allan Hruska
Senior Agricultural Officer
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Plant Production and Protection Division
(AGP)

Mario Lubetkin
Directeur de Cabinet
Office of the Director-General (ODG)

Samy Gaiji
Head of Research and Extension
Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department (ADGR)

Regina Laub
Senior Officer
Economic and Social Development Department, Social Policies and Rural Institutions
Division (ESP)

Appendix B

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 18, 2018	
9:00 am	Opening and Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from Co-Chairs from the United States and Canada • Roundtable Introductions • Meeting's agenda, and administrative items
9:30 am	North American Strategic Priorities for the FAO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video conference (VC) from FAO on progress to implement the 2016 INARC outcomes. (Daniel Gustafson, DDG-P) • Presentation from Vimlendra Sharan on FAOLOW's role in implementing North American priorities • Outline of Canada's and the United States' priorities for the FAO in the 2018-19 biennium.
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Agri-Food Trade and Global Food Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC from FAO on upcoming <i>State of Agricultural Commodity Markets</i>. • Discussion: North American views on trade and food security. (George Rapsomanikis, Senior Economist, EST) • VC from FAO to provide an update on work of the Codex, including funding, and Codex's Scientific Advice Programme. (Tom Heilandt, AGFC; Marcus Lipp, AGFF, Dan Gustafson (TBC) • Discussion: North American views concerning FAO's support for standard-setting work including challenges and potential solutions. <p>Conclusion: Next Steps and Recommendations</p>
12:30 pm	No-Host lunch
1:30 pm	FAO, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC from FAO on efforts to mainstream gender, implement its Policy on Gender Equality, and scale up gender-transformative approaches. (Junko Sasaki, Director, ESP) • Discussion: North American views on gender equality and the empowerment of women to reverse negative trends in achieving SDG2. • Conclusion: Next Steps and Recommendations
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Readout of Stakeholder Comments Received to Date <p>United States and Canada share summaries of views received through written comments.</p>
3:15 pm	United States-Canada Closed Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of agenda items • Wrap up and Conclusions from Day 1
5:00 pm	End of Day 1

Thursday, April 19, 2018	
9:00 am	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming from the Co-Chairs; recap of previous day.
9:10 am	FAO and Innovation, Including Agroecology and Biotechnology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC from FAO to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Readout of the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology; and ○ Preview of the FAO International Symposium on Innovation. (Caterina Batello, Team Leader, AGPME; Samy Gaji, Head of Research and Extension, AGDR)) • Dialogue with FAO officials on innovation to increase production, environmental sustainability, peoples' access to food, and the efficiency of food systems. • Discussion: North American views concerning FAO's work on agricultural innovations, including agroecology and biotechnology, with a view to ensure a balanced approach on FAO's programming in this area. • Conclusion: Next Steps and Recommendations
10:25 am	Break
10:40 am	FAO's Work in Emergencies and Emerging Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC from FAO to provide an update on current emergency field work, including Fall Army Worm and conflict & hunger coordination work. (Dominique Burgeon, Director, TCE; Allan Hruska, Senior Agricultural Officer, AG) Stock-taking exercise regarding North America's voluntary contribution to the FAO to respond to emergencies and threats. (Daniel Gustafson, DDG-P and/or Mario Lubetkin, Directeur de Cabinet, ODG) • VC from FAO on coordination with other RBAs. • Discussion: FAO's work to respond to emergencies, including coordination with other organizations and agencies. • Conclusion: Next Steps and Recommendations
12:00 pm	No-Host Lunch
1:30 pm	The FAOLOW and the North American region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion among Canada and the United States on working with the FAOLOW. • Conclusion: Next Steps and Recommendations
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	United States-Canada Closed Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-of-government discussion on FAO's North American Priorities for the next biennium under each SO, including SO6. • Upcoming coordination and work for technical committees meetings including CCP, COAG, GSP, COFI, COFO, etc. • Budget for the next biennium
4:45 pm	Concluding Remarks
5:00 pm	End Day 2: INARC Concludes

Appendix C

North America's Strategic Priorities for the FAO – 2018-2019

FAO Strategic Objectives:

- 1) *Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition*
- 2) *Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable*
- 3) *Reduce rural poverty*
- 4) *Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems*
- 5) *Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises*
- 6) *Cross-Cutting Issues*

Priority: Global Food Security and Agri-Food Trade

Priority	FAO Strategic Objective Addressed
<i>Provide information, assessments and analysis to combat hunger and reduce malnutrition, including intra-household assessments.</i>	1
<i>Promote food safety/quality, including the prevention of food-borne diseases; focus on consumer protection and fair practices in food trade.</i>	1
<i>Enhance data and analytical tools such as market information systems and increase capacity building activities in targeted countries, particularly those least-developed, to support international food and agricultural trade, promote transparent market actions, and enhance market opportunities taking into consideration a gender-sensitive approach.</i>	4
<i>Support the Codex Secretariat to ensure that it has sufficient capacity and expertise to facilitate and advance the normative work of Codex Committees, and to ensure that Codex principles and procedures are followed and the unique Codex mandate is respected. Support the joint FAO/WHO expert scientific advice program through increased and stable funding to enable the timely development of science-based Codex standards.</i>	4
<i>Support evidence-based decision-making that promotes improved nutrition, particularly for women and children, with an emphasis on nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative value chains.</i>	4
<i>Pursue sustainable funding to strengthen IPPC's capacity to ensure that it can deliver on its mandate and priorities in order to: strengthen the development of international standards; promote safe trade in plants and plant products; support food security; establish and promote effective information exchange systems among members; address the technical capacity of all member countries, especially developing countries to implement the IPPC and its standard; and provide a sufficient and sustainable administrative support structure to meet its members' needs and priorities.</i>	4

Priority: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Priority	FAO Strategic Objective
<i>Systematically mainstream gender through sex-disaggregated data collection and gender-based information, assessments and analyses to combat hunger and reduce malnutrition. The FAO should also strive to develop an Action Plan to effectively implement the FAO Policy on Gender Equality to better focus its work¹.</i>	1
<i>Strengthen efforts towards the empowerment of women by addressing the gender-barriers they face in accessing productive resources and social services as well as decent farm and non-farm employment opportunities; in participating as equal decision-makers in their households, communities and local institutions; and in realizing their human rights, as well as promoting their equal access to land and property ownership.</i>	2
<i>Work collaboratively with other international organizations to address the gender, social, and labor aspects of the aquaculture and seafood sector.</i>	1

Priority: Innovation, Including Agroecology and Biotechnology

Priority	FAO Strategic Objective
<i>Strengthen FAO's work on climate-smart agriculture, including the development of science-based decision tools and services that are directly relevant to smallholders, including farmers, aquaculturists, forest owners, and fishers, and which can be disseminated and applied on a broad scale, taking into account local conditions.</i>	2
<i>Further analyze and highlight how innovative agricultural and aquaculture biotechnologies, and other advanced technologies improve farm productivity and profitability, decrease agricultural carbon emissions, and enhance sustainable natural resource management.</i>	4
<i>Increase access to innovative agricultural technologies, including advances in precision breeding innovation, as a means to build capacity for smallholders in developing countries to increase farm incomes, adapt agricultural practices to the</i>	4

¹ The development of an Action Plan to effectively implement the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, would require the FAO to do significant work with respect to: (1) Sex-disaggregated data collection and dissemination, including capacity-building for member states to develop, use and analyze such data; (2) Gender analysis for all strategic objectives, field programmes and projects, programmes reviews and evaluations; country gender assessments for all country programming framework; (3) Gender action plan for all strategic objectives; (4) Progress on gender equality is measured for all corporate outcomes (and using pro-WEAI as appropriate); (5) Reporting on progress made and gender-related impacts; (6) Appropriate financial target for resource allocation to implement the Policy; and (7) Mandatory capacity development of all professional staff and management.

<i>effects of climate change, and make agricultural production systems more sustainable to ensure a safe and affordable food supply.</i>	
<i>Support the development and adoption of science-based regulatory systems in Member Countries that enable greater alignment of regulatory approaches for products of modern biotechnology for genetically modified food safety assessment; enhance the ability of Member Countries to interpret and analyze safety assessments to assist in authorization and risk management decisions and to improve the use of the FAO database for sharing safety assessments of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants; and promote risk-based policies for dealing with Low-Level Presence (LLP).</i>	4
<i>Proactively consider climate-smart agriculture, agroecology and biotechnology approaches as part of a spectrum of tools that are mutually-reinforcing and that farmers can use to achieve multiple goals. The FAO should foster innovation to make agriculture production systems more sustainable, and provide a neutral space to depolarize the debate on these issues.</i>	2

Priority: Resilience, Emergencies, and Emerging Threats

Priority	FAO Strategic Objective
<i>Promote and harmonize food safety, plant health and animal health data collection, and improve the sharing of analyses within the FAO and among its Members and partners, and provide food insecurity forecasting and early warning systems for decision-support tools to Members and partners.</i>	3
<i>Prioritize the global response to the Fall Armyworm threat currently in Africa, and continue to work towards greater collaboration with Member States.</i>	5
<i>Strengthen the EMPRES and GLEWS platforms; ensure an effective and sustainable Emergency Management Centre- Animal Health (EMC-AH) that quickly responds to transboundary animal disease outbreak, whether naturally occurring, accidental, or deliberately caused.</i>	5
<i>Collaborate with the other Rome-Based Agencies bringing together key food assistance and nutrition actors to avoid duplication and continue to advance food interventions in humanitarian situations, including using resilience-based approaches to prevent and address protracted food and nutrition insecurity.</i>	5
<i>Promote resilience through the strengthened capacities of people relying on agricultural-based livelihoods and of food, fish, and forest production systems to proactively analyze, reduce, mitigate, and manage risks and adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses.</i>	5
<i>Support the One Health Approach and the Global Health Security Agenda by enhancing bilateral, multilateral and multi-sectoral collaboration to strengthen global and national capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental.</i>	5

Priority: Natural Resource Management

Priority	FAO Strategic Objective
<i>Strengthen FAO's technical expertise and build capacity at the national and regional levels to support implementation of existing instruments, particularly the voluntary guidelines on small scale fisheries, the aquaculture strategic framework, and forest resource monitoring and information.</i>	2
<i>Continue efforts to improve sustainable plant protection programs, efficient and resilient production systems, and sustainable forest management practices- in an integrated manner - for example, wildfire management, forest adaptation and mitigation, and combating illegal logging and associated trade.</i>	2
<i>Work to address and adapt to the impacts of a changing marine environment on fish stocks, fisheries and fisheries management governance.</i>	2
<i>Continue to prioritize work to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including efforts to implement relevant instruments, including the Port State Measures Agreement(PSMA) and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, and support capacity building through the FAO Umbrella Programme on the PSMA and Related International Instruments to Combat IUU Fishing.</i>	2
<i>Strengthen FAO's ability to develop technical and normative work on fisheries and aquaculture through restructuring of the Committee on Fisheries subcommittees or creating a new subcommittee on fisheries management</i>	2
<i>Promote the protection and sound management of fresh water resources by harmonizing and sharing water data and providing evidence-based decision-support tools to watershed managers and water users</i>	2
<i>Promote the protection and sound management of soil health by harmonizing and sharing soil data and providing evidence-based decision-support tools to soil conservation managers and other land users</i>	2
<i>Support and enhance conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food agriculture, including genetic resources of plants, farm animals, forests, aquatic, micro-organisms and invertebrates. Facilitate access to genetic resources for research and innovation.</i>	2
<i>Strengthen FAO's technical capacity in information management and support strengthening of national data systems for agriculture, food security and nutrition, forest management, aquaculture, and fisheries.</i>	6