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# COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

## Seventy-second Session

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### THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

#### Executive Summary

Since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, countries have been progressively reviewing their national policies, programmes and monitoring capacities to set national objectives and plans that are aligned to the ambition of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets. The new Agenda commits the international community to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development in three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) by 2030. Going forward, FAO will support countries to build an enabling policy environment to accelerate SDGs implementation.

This document presents the main elements of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including their monitoring and follow-up. It also discusses FAO's support to the implementation of the Agenda and CCP's contribution to the process.

#### Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Welcome FAO's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in particular with reference to the work and activities under the mandate of the CCP;
- Provide guidance with regard to the input of the CCP to the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

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## I. Introduction

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda, or the Agenda), including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, was adopted in September 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations. Defined and fully owned by countries after the broadest global multi-stakeholder consultation process in history, the new Agenda builds on the UN founding vision of peace, well-being, economic stability and the realization of human rights for all. The list of the 17 SDGs is presented in Annex 1.
2. Embracing sustainable development in all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental, the 2030 Agenda offers a global vision of a fairer, more inclusive and more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable world in which ‘no one is left behind’. A flexible instrument, the Agenda enjoins Member States to select their national targets within the overall ambition to shift the world onto a more sustainable and resilient development path. Through it, the international community has committed to working collectively to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development by 2030.
3. The SDGs are the first Member State-defined and -led global development push in history. At its core is a commitment to mutual accountability. Member States select specific objectives to be met within a given timeframe, with achievements monitored regularly to assess national, regional and global progress. The SDGs are universal – equally relevant to developed and developing nations, interlinked and call for comprehensive, evidence-based and participatory approaches to commitments, implementation, follow-up and review.
4. The SDGs introduce a dramatically new vision of development based on programmes and policies that are at once highly ambitious, integrative and holistic. The aim is transformational change, not only an acceleration of development, but a clear shift in the pattern of development. To support these ambitions, more innovative, inclusive and comprehensive development strategies are required. While the SDGs are applicable to all countries, it is recognized that country-level approaches toward their achievement should take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respect national policies and priorities, while keeping in mind the overall ambition.
5. The SDGs are now the primary reference for development policies and programmes at national level. Each country has been reviewing the 17 goals to determine how they can be translated into ambitious but feasible targets and effective national development plans. A central challenge for governments is to assess how they can commit national resources to produce real change – based on their own priorities and characteristics.
6. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted in July 2015, is integrated into the 2030 Agenda. It provides a framework for a new global partnership for sustainable development, with the aim of financing and accelerating development.

## II. Monitoring the SDGs

7. A follow-up and review mechanism based on mutual accountability for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is central for this new development paradigm. This requires a solid evidence based reporting and monitoring framework consisting of indicators and statistical data to monitor progress, inform policy, and ensure accountability; a comprehensive system of national, regional and global analysis and assessment; and series of well-defined processes for follow-up and review.
8. The follow-up and review process has evolved rapidly to provide regular and systematic procedures to enable informed judgements around three sets of fundamental questions:

- 1) Are we, the Member States and the world community, on track to realizing the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda? If not, where are we falling short, why and what needs to be done? And what are we learning about the requirements of success?
- 2) Are we collectively mobilizing the necessary means of implementation – finance and investment; market access and development; science technology and innovation (STI); capacity development; and policy support?
- 3) Are we taking the necessary steps to ensure that the UN development system is being adapted quickly enough to ensure more timely, appropriate, efficient and effective support to national, regional and global collective actions to achieve the SDGs?

9. Each of these sets of related questions now has well-developed processes and forums for follow-up and review. The third question is now reviewed regularly through the dialogue between the Member States and the Secretariat that has been built around the UN development system (UNDS) reform, which takes as its fundamental objective to make the UNDS “fit for purpose” to support the 2030 Agenda. The main drivers of the process are Resolutions of the General Assembly, recommendations and decisions of the Secretary-General, and regular progress reviews in the annual Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Operational Activities segment. The second question is reviewed annually through the Financing for Sustainable Development (FfSD) and STI Forums guided by an annual FfSD report, which takes the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as its primary points of reference. The first set of questions, summing up all inputs, receives comprehensive attention through the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which meets annually at the Ministerial level and quadrennially at the level of Heads of State and Government. In 2019, the HLPF will meet twice, both at Ministerial level (in July) and at the higher level at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

10. The foundation for all of this, and a key driver of follow-up action, is a strong evidence base. In March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a global SDG indicator framework comprising 230 indicators to monitor the 169 targets. These global indicators will help countries measure the progress they are making towards the established objectives, learn from experiences and identify the areas to be prioritised and to which resources should be allocated.

11. The sheer weight of indicators, however, represents an immense challenge for countries. Four times greater in number than for the MDGs, many indicators are also set to be disaggregated by gender, age, income, geography, occupation and other aspects of social identity, in line with the guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind”. The SDG indicators are at different stages and have been classified into three tiers depending on data availability and level of methodological development. Tier I indicators are those for which an established methodology exists and data is already widely available (75 indicators); Tier II includes indicators for which a methodology is established but data is not easily available (70 indicators); and Tier III indicators are those for which an internationally agreed methodology is not yet developed and data is largely unavailable (85 indicators).

12. The 2030 Agenda has set in place a global reporting structure that includes inputs at local, national and regional levels, and culminates in the HLPF to provide guidance and recommendations, identify progress and challenges and mobilise action to accelerate implementation of the 17 SDGs. The indicators are the foundation of this accountability structure. According to the principle of national ownership, countries are chiefly responsible for gathering the data. However, international agencies can lead assistance by strengthening national capacities and ensuring that data are comparable and properly aggregated at sub-regional, regional and global levels.

### **III. FAO's support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

13. As the UN specialized agency in food and agriculture, FAO has a long history of working in all three dimensions of sustainable development. The Organization's technical capacity, wealth of knowledge, accumulated monitoring expertise, and experience in shaping policy, wide country

presence and global reach represent important strengths to support countries in implementing national plans to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

14. Through its Technical Bodies<sup>1</sup>, such as the CCP, FAO makes important contributions to the enabling environment for more effective and collective action at the global, regional and national levels by providing data, standards and norms, policy guidance and support and capacity development and by promoting robust and operative multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to mobilize the required means of implementation.

15. FAO's own accountability framework to its Members has been aligned with the SDGs. Within its reviewed Strategic Framework, FAO has placed sustainable development at the centre of its support to member countries by incorporating SDG targets and indicators in its results framework. At the policy level, the Strategic Programmes have focussed attention on creating greater coherence across different sectors and policy measures for achieving the SDGs. FAO has been a leader within the UN system in promoting and enabling stronger collaboration among all concerned actors and stakeholders, reflecting the principles and approaches underpinning the 2030 Agenda.

16. One important role of FAO in supporting member countries to achieve the SDGs is providing policy and technical assistance support to governments and policy makers. The Organization provides the needed evidence base to inform policy decisions and facilitates policy dialogue. For instance under trade policy, FAO offers analysis on the possible consequences of trade policies, capacity development to improve understanding of international rules and their implications, and a neutral forum for dialogue among policy makers. The Organization also provides technical assistance in preparing for trade negotiations and in implementing trade agreements.

17. FAO also offers its Members a neutral platform to review and negotiate instruments, standards, norms and tolls needed for the transition towards more productive, sustainable and resilient agriculture. The Organization hosts more than 70 instruments and mechanisms on different aspects of sustainability across agricultural sectors.

18. A successful sustainable development agenda requires strong partnerships between all concerned actors, namely governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships, built based on principles and values, a shared vision and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level. FAO has identified multi-stakeholder partnerships as one of the key drivers of its support to the 2030 Agenda. The Organization plays a leading role in governance matters and participatory approaches to policy and decision-making, bringing together diverse state and non-state players for policy dialogue, supplying essential data, norms and standards, and supporting countries in implementing inclusive and cross-cutting actions. At global, regional and national levels, FAO builds partnerships to create enabling environments for policies, programmes and investment plans to achieve transformative change on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

19. Development of capacity to collect and analyse data has been a priority concern in the early stages of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An important contribution of FAO has been its willingness and readiness to accept responsibility as custodian agency for 21 SDG indicators, which represents a more than five-fold increase over the four indicators monitored under the MDGs. This new responsibility reflects the greatly expanded importance of food and agriculture in the 2030 Agenda and a recognition of FAO's technical capacity and global leadership in these areas.

20. The indicators for which FAO is custodian are as follows: a) food security statistics (indicators 2.1.1 and 2.1.2); b) productivity and incomes of smallholders (indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2); c) sustainable agriculture (indicator 2.4.1); d) genetic resources for food and agriculture (indicators

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and Committee on Forestry (COFO)

2.5.1 and 2.5.2); e) government expenditures in agriculture (indicator 2.a.1); f) food price anomalies (indicator 2.c.1); g) access to agricultural land (indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2); h) water use and stress (indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2); i) food losses and waste (indicator 12.3.1); j) sustainable fisheries (indicators 14.4.1, 14.6.1, 14.7.1 and 14.b.1); and k) sustainable forestry and mountains (indicators 15.1.1, 15.2.1 and 15.4.2). Moreover, the Organization is a contributing agency for six more SDG indicators (1.4.2, 1.5.2, 2.a.2, 14.c.1, 15.3.1, and 15.6.1).

21. FAO is recognized as having a fundamental global role in developing methods and standards for food and agriculture statistics. The Organization has engaged since the beginning in developing the most appropriate methodologies to measure the indicators and has also been helping countries in meeting the new monitoring challenges through technical assistance and statistical capacity development. Further, as custodian agency, FAO will help ensure that national data are comparable and aggregated at sub-regional, regional and global levels. The data will contribute to annual SDG progress reports that feed into the HLPF's follow-up and review processes.

#### IV. CCP's contribution to the 2030 Agenda

22. The terms of reference of the CCP are as follows: i) keep under review commodity problems of international character affecting production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters; ii) prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which may be made available directly to Member Nations; and iii) report and submit suggestions to the Council on policy issues arising out of its deliberations. The Committee identifies specific commodity problems of global nature and proposes appropriate response mechanisms and international action to mitigate them.

23. The work of the CCP is pertinent to a number of SDGs, and in particular to goals 1, 2, 8, 12, 13 and 17, as well as the intersection among the various SDGs. Under SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), two targets are directly related to the work of the Committee:

Target 2.b “Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round”

Target 2.c “Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility”

24. Agenda 2030 recognizes that transparent, non-distorted and well-functioning global agricultural markets are an essential element in the global effort to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2). SDG 17 on the means of implementation and global partnership contains a separate section on trade, including a specific target to “*promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization*”.

25. Under the mandate of the CCP, FAO keeps under review global issues that affect trade in agriculture, provides analytical and policy relevant information, maintains a comprehensive market intelligence service of the main food and agricultural commodities and is responsible for servicing the arrangements for early warnings and alerts on food shortfalls. For a complete list of activities and work priority areas in support of the 2030 Agenda, please refer to document CCP 18/6 “FAO’s Programme of Work in Commodity Markets and Trade under the Strategic Framework”.

26. Furthermore, FAO is a custodian agency for SDG indicator 2.c.1 of food price anomalies. The indicator measures food price volatility and gives regular price information on a basket of goods to help ensure appropriate measures can be taken in a timely manner to offset hikes. In an increasingly globalized world, keeping an eye on food commodity prices and a careful watch for price hikes has

never been more important. FAO calculates the indicator of food price volatility using country level data. Feeding into the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and its activities under the Food Price Monitoring and Analysis tool (FPMA) at country level, the indicator offers to governments regular information on food prices. Results are analysed and disseminated through the FPMA website and bulleting on a monthly basis, with the aim of providing early warning to countries where there is a potential impact on economic access to key food products because of abnormally high food prices. An e-learning course on the indicator has been developed and launched. This course provides a clear and easy-to-use guide to understand the indicator and the methodology to estimate it. It covers basic concepts related to market functioning, prices determination and price volatility and explains how to calculate the indicator and use the online FPMA tool to interpret the results at national and international levels.

27. CCP also contributes to the annual follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, conducted under the HLPF. At the request of the President of ECOSOC, inviting “*substantive inputs to the HLPF showcasing the intergovernmental body’s contribution to the 2030 Agenda in general, and particularly for the SDGs and respective targets that are most relevant to the intergovernmental body’s mandate*”, CCP contributions were prepared and submitted in 2017 and 2018. The theme of the HLPF in 2017 was “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” and in 2018 was “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The theme for the 2019 HLPF will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The 2018 CCP submission is attached in Annex 2 to this document.

## Annex 1

### The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

**Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Global Sustainable Development.

## Annex 2

### CCP submission to the 2018 High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

#### FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)

##### The role of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems

The mandate of FAO's Committee on Commodity problems (CCP) is twofold: i) keep under review commodity problems of an international character that affect production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters; and ii) prepare and make available to the Members a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation. The CCP also makes recommendations on issues arising from its deliberations.

The work of the CCP is pertinent to a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular to Goals 1, 2, 8, 12, 13 and 17, as well as the intersection among the various SDGs.

##### Key Messages

1. **Transparent and well-functioning food and agricultural markets are essential for ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable consumption and production patterns.**
  - a) Monitoring and assessment of world commodity markets and the availability of up-to-date data and information are critical for global food security. Timely and reliable information, made available to all concerned actors, enhance market transparency, reduce price volatility and inform policy decisions.
  - b) Government and other stakeholders are urged to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of the supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities and to make the results publicly available in a timely manner, to improve market transparency and the coordination of response.
  - c) Governments are encouraged to carefully consider the consequences of any action that could disrupt commodity markets and trade flows and propel price volatility.
2. **A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system is essential for promoting agricultural development and food security.**

Trade is one of the key means of implementation of the SDGs, with trade-related targets specified under several SDGs (2, 8, 10, 14 and 17), requiring progressively integrated and cross-cutting approaches at global, regional and national levels.

- a) Reaching a comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round is highly important given its potential contribution to agriculture and creating an enabling environment for development and food security, and to responding to excessive price volatility.
- b) There is a need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition.
- c) CCP requested that further assistance be provided to developing countries to engage better in regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes, to ensure that these processes are coherent with, and supportive of, countries' pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process. It was also recommended that assistance be provided to facilitate policy dialogue for improving alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade frameworks and policies.
- d) Improved market access to commodities from developing countries is important as a way to enhance food security and income-generating objectives of these countries.

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- 3. The integration of smallholders, family farmers and vulnerable producers into markets and value chains is crucially important to ensure that no one is left behind.**
- a) It is important to develop policies and strategies to support smallholders' integration into markets and value chains. Globally more than 80 percent of smallholders operate in local and domestic markets. Efforts to increase the productivity of smallholder and family farmers to ensure inclusive, gender equitable rural and agricultural development would only have limited impact if linkages to markets and value chains were not strengthened simultaneously.
  - b) There is a critical need for more and better agricultural investment, in particular towards smallholder producers in developing countries. Investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure is crucial for increasing farmers' productivity and integration into markets and strengthening their resilience. It is important for the investment to be responsible in order to be sustainable and benefit those that need it the most.
- 4. There is a need to continue assisting countries and addressing the knowledge gaps on the impacts of climate change to promote more sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems.**
- a) Climate change is expected to cause more extreme weather events, which would contribute to more frequent and more significant price swings. This could particularly affect the incomes and livelihoods of small producers, posing more severe challenges to developing countries.
  - b) CCP stressed the importance of assisting countries, upon their request, to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes and develop technical capacity to promote sustainable agriculture and integrated cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including addressing the adaptation needs and mitigation potential of agriculture as identified by countries in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
  - c) Collaboration is encouraged to address, in an objective manner, the knowledge gaps on the interface between climate change, trade, commodity markets and food security, and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessments of climate change on commodity trade at the country level.