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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COUNCIL

## Hundred and Sixty-fourth Session

6-10 July 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

### Executive Summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other *fora* of importance for FAO's mandate:

- 1) The UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy adopted by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the implications for FAO;
- 2) The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming food systems to deliver affordable healthy diets to all;
- 3) The year 2020 as a 'super year for nature' and preparations for FAO's participation in the UNSG's Biodiversity Summit 2020 (New York, 22-23 September 2020);

Further information on the above topics will be posted as Web Annexes to CL 164/INF/4.

### Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 164th Session of the Council for information only.

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<sup>1</sup> Rescheduled from 8-12 June 2020

## **I. The UN Secretary-General's Data Strategy adopted by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the implications for FAO**

1. On 14 May 2020, the UN Secretary General's "Data Strategy" was welcomed by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which brings together the Principals of 31 UN System entities. The Secretary-General's Data Strategy represents an essential component of the UN Reform, which aims at building a comprehensive UN ecosystem that unlocks our full digital, technology, and innovation potential for better decisions and stronger support to people and planet in the moments that matter most. The expected outcomes for the UN System will be stronger decision-making and policy advice, greater data access and sharing, improved data governance and collaboration, robust data protection and privacy, enhanced efficiency across UN operations, greater transparency and accountability, and better services for people and the planet.

## **II. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020: Transforming food systems to deliver affordable healthy diets to all**

2. The 2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report will be launched on 13 July 2020, on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum 2020 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York (7 – 16 July 2020). The theme of SOFI 2020 closely examines the cost and affordability of healthy diets. The SOFI 2020 Report complements the usual assessment of the state of food security and nutrition in the world with projections of what the world may look like in 2030 if the trends of the last decade continue. The Report shows that while there are signs of improvements in some indicators, the overall picture emerging from this Report will provide a further basis to call for bolder action. The Covid-19 pandemic is posing a serious threat to food security and nutrition, and will expose more people to food insecurity. The Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to accelerate the increasing trend in the number of hungry people seen in recent years, unless immediate actions are taken. Moreover, pockets of food insecurity may appear in countries and population groups that were not traditionally affected.

## **III. The year 2020 as a 'super year for nature' and preparations for FAO's participation in the UNSG's Biodiversity Summit 2020 (New York, 22-23 September 2020)**

3. The year 2020 has been referred to as a 'super year for nature', with several global conferences aiming to agree on enhanced and accelerated action for slowing climate breakdown and protecting biodiversity over the next decade. The Biodiversity Summit 2020 will take place on 22-23 September 2020, on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The scope, modalities, format and organization of the Summit are described in Resolution A/RES/74/269. The Summit will highlight the urgency of action on biodiversity in support of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It will provide the opportunity for Heads of State and Government and other leaders to demonstrate experiences of action on biodiversity and raise ambitions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation. FAO is member of an Inter-Agency Task Force established at the request of the President of the General Assembly, co-led by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme. While the modalities of the high level week are still being discussed, the concept note and programme of the Summit will be shared with Members in the first week of July 2020.