

## **27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture**

### **Item 2.12: Terms of Reference (TOR) of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture**

#### **Introduction notes**

Digitalization can make food systems more productive and contribute to all dimensions of sustainable development – economic, environmental and social. At the same time, digital technologies can be deeply transformative and may entail challenges and risks that should be addressed by policy makers.

The International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture will provide a voluntary and inclusive multi-stakeholder mechanism to enhance awareness, promote coordination, bridge the gap between multilateral fora for the digital economy and those for food and agriculture and provide policy recommendations to governments.

The FAO Council, during its 164th Session (6 to 10 July 2020), endorsed the proposal for hosting by FAO of the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture, and requested review of the Terms of Reference for the Platform by the COAG, COFI, COFO, the Programme Committee.

The International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture will be light, agile and targeted to ensure inclusiveness and cost-effectiveness. Its Terms of Reference specify an operating mechanism that will be composed by:

- i the Inter-governmental representatives Group, composed by Members;
- ii the Advisory Committee formed by technical experts from International Organizations and other stakeholders;
- iii the virtual Multi-stakeholder Forum to ensure that everyone can participate in the discussions; and,
- iv a Coordination Unit.

The International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture shall be funded by extra-budgetary contributions.

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