

Web Annex 2:

FAO's engagement in the G20 process

I. Background and FAO's Role in the G20

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization has supported the Group of Twenty (G20) since 2011. The G20 economies are major actors in the global agri-food system. G20 countries produce up to 80 percent of the world's total cereal production and account for a similar share of world agricultural exports. G20 domestic policies related to food and agriculture, trade, energy and investment can impact on global food security and nutrition. The actions G20 members take to promote sustainable growth in food and agriculture, for example to improve agricultural productivity, can have global spillover effects. FAO engages in several tracks of the G20 work, including the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting and the work on development.

2. FAO enjoys a unique position in the global food and agriculture architecture. FAO is the United Nations (UN) specialized agency in food and agriculture and a global leader in agricultural policy analysis, as well as an invaluable knowledge repository. The Organization plays two key roles when engaging in the G20. First, that of technical advisor and innovator. Upon invitation by the G20 Presidency, FAO produces thematic reports and technical notes on a variety of issues surrounding food and agriculture, providing analysis, data and evidence, and proposals for concrete actions that foster global public goods.

3. Second, FAO contributes to coherence and acts as a custodian of G20 global initiatives. Based on resolutions adopted by the FAO Council and Conference, the United Nations General Assembly and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Organization contributes towards coherence between global agreements and G20 initiatives and actions. FAO also hosts important G20 initiatives, which ensures continuity of the work initiated by different G20 Presidencies as well as continued engagement of the G20 members. These include the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP), and the Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste.

II. FAO Contribution under the G20 Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2020

4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held the G20 Presidency in 2020. In view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saudi G20 Presidency held a **G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19** on 26 March 2020. On that occasion, the FAO Director-General urged world leaders to ensure the smooth functioning of global food supply chains during the crisis and underlined the importance for markets to remain transparent, stable and a reliable source of food.

5. The Saudi Presidency held an **Extraordinary Virtual Meeting of the G20 Ministers of Agriculture** on 21 April 2020 to coordinate their response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. On this occasion, the Ministers underlined the importance of working together to ensure the continued flow of food, products, and inputs essential for food and agricultural production across borders. The G20 Agriculture Ministers also reaffirmed their willingness to coordinate policy responses, supported by AMIS and its Rapid Response Forum.

6. FAO coordinates its engagement under the G20 with other International Organizations (IOs), which helps to foster cooperation between IOs and build synergies. In 2020, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank and the World Food Programme (WFP) delivered a **Joint Statement on COVID-19 Impacts on Food Security and Nutrition** on the occasion of the Extraordinary G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting. The statement underlined the immediate risks

posed by the outbreak of the pandemic to global food and agriculture supplies and the importance of cooperation and solidarity in facing the challenge.

7. FAO supported the deliberations of the **G20 Agriculture and Water Deputies** which lead to the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting. At the request of the G20 Presidency, FAO, together with the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), led the preparation of technical notes to inform the discussions throughout 2020.

8. FAO provided significant technical support in the development of the *G20 Riyadh Statement to Enhance Implementation of Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems*. FAO organized and hosted the Saudi G20 Agriculture Secretariat in Rome for a two-day **Workshop on Responsible Investment in Agriculture** in January 2020, in which FAO, IFAD, OECD and the CFS Secretariat participated. The *Statement* draws attention to the need to increase responsible investment in agriculture while also pursuing a wider-scale implementation of available guidelines and tools such as *the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* and the *OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains*.

9. The **G20 Agriculture and Water Ministers Meeting** was held virtually on 12 September 2020. In their Communiqué, G20 Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on their response to COVID-19 and agreed to continue to guard against unjustified trade restrictive measures that could exacerbate food price volatility in international markets and threaten the continued recovery of all facets of the global food supply chains. They also reaffirmed their commitment to rural development, to reduce food loss and waste, and to the global fight against antimicrobial resistance in agriculture and food systems in line with the One Health approach.

10. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acted as the Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in 2020 and convened the **AMIS Rapid Response Forum** on 28 January 2020, supported by the AMIS Secretariat. AMIS was launched in 2011 by the G20 Agriculture Ministers under the G20 Presidency of France in response to the global food price hikes in 2007/08 and 2010. The initiative is hosted by FAO in the Markets and Trade Division (EST).

11. FAO assisted the Saudi G20 Presidency in the preparation of the **Meeting of the G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists** (MACS) through the preparation of concept notes and technical presentations.

12. FAO supported the deliberations of the G20 Environment Deputies which lead to the G20 Environment Ministers' Meeting. Together with other International Organizations, FAO provided substantive technical inputs and recommendations to the G20 Presidency to support the preparation of the *Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats*. The initiative aims to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation. FAO participated in the **G20 Environment Ministers Meeting** on 16 September 2020 and delivered a technical presentation on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. In addition, FAO also provided support to the G20 Climate Stewardship Working Group.

13. FAO has also attended the **G20 Sherpa Meetings** as well as the **G20 Leaders' Summit**, held virtually on 21-22 November 2020. On this occasion, FAO called upon world leaders to keep working together to prevent the global health crisis from turning into a global food crisis. The FAO Director-General called on global leaders to continue work and cooperation on the following key areas: trade and market access; implementation of the One Health approach; increasing responsible investment in agriculture and rural areas; scaling up of social protection mechanisms; and investment in digital innovation and extension.

III. FAO's Support to the G20 under the Presidency of the Republic of Italy in 2021

14. The Republic of Italy assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2020. FAO welcomes the emphasis and space dedicated by the Italian G20 Presidency to global food security and agriculture issues. FAO has already been requested to provide technical inputs to inform the G20 deliberations and is committed to work with the Italian Government for a successful G20 Presidency.