



COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventieth Session

13-17 June 2022

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 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and from COP 26 to COP 27;
- 2) Digital for Impact: Leveraging FAO Digital Public Goods to accelerate progress towards agrifood systems transformation and SDG1 by the Rural-Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI);
- 3) Preventing and addressing acute food insecurity at its roots – the Global Network Against Food Crises and Emergency reaction.

Further information on the above topics will be posted as Web Annexes to CL 170/INF/4.

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 170th Session of the Council for information only.

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I. The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and from COP 26 to COP 27

COP 15: Negotiations of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

1. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt, *inter alia*, the “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF). The GBF will replace the CBD’s Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which expired at the end of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress in the development of the GBF. The first part of COP 15 was held virtually in October 2021. Dates for the second part of COP 15 to be held in Kunming, China, still have to be confirmed. The meetings of the Convention’s subsidiary bodies resumed as in-person meetings in March 2022.¹ Parties decided to hold another meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) to make more progress on the draft GBF and on the contentious issue of “digital sequence information” prior to the second part of COP 15. The meeting of the WG2020 is scheduled to take place on 21-26 June 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya.

From COP 26 to COP 27: Climate change

2. The negotiations during the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) resulted in finalization of the Paris Rulebook, including on market mechanisms, transparency, loss and damage, adaptation, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Particularly relevant to the FAO is the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and its roadmap. At COP 26, based on the workshops’ results, Parties agreed to move forward with the view to establishing a financing mechanism to support action on the ground.² FAO is expected to contribute to discussions on the possible mechanism beyond COP 27. The next round of the climate negotiations will take place during the 56th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies (6-16 June 2022), where preparations will be made for COP 27 (7-18 November 2022) that will be held in Egypt. Finally, the 56th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change adopted parts of the 6th Assessment Report on Climate Change 2022, the findings of which warn that any further delay in global climate action and adapt to its impacts will miss a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.

II. Digital for Impact: Leveraging FAO Digital Public Goods to accelerate progress towards agrifood systems transformation and SDG1 by the Rural-Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI)

3. FAO has a key role to play in promoting the use and adoption of digital technologies to facilitate the transformation of agrifood systems, as well as to address the digital divide while leaving no one behind. The Organization has continued to be at the forefront of digital transformation as a key contributor and accelerator towards alleviating the impact of climate change and emergent crisis such the COVID-19 and regional conflicts and disasters, promoting the long-term digital transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. The FAO’s Digital for Impact focus area is at the forefront of developing new digital capabilities and partnerships. FAO will continue to deepen the integration of cutting-edge information technology and agronomy, and employ agro-informatics to promote the production and delivery of useful, usable and used digital public goods including actionable data and information, and fit-for-purpose agro-informatics tools. FAO will focus on Digital Public Goods and specialized applications that help to translate this vision into concrete digital capabilities support and delivery for Members. FAO’s Digital for Impact works in an integrated way and contributes to the UN DATA and Digital

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/geneva-2022>

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2021_L01_adv.pdf

Public Goods Alliance (DPGA), fully aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation by championing Digital Public Goods and with extensive collaboration activities.

5. Enhanced data and indicators in support of evidence-based decision making are key FAO public goods, whose dissemination needs to increasingly rely on digital technology, to promote their impact in support of policy decision making. One example of FAO's work, in this connection, is the recently launched Rural-Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI).

6. Ending poverty and hunger are central goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Evidence indicates that rural areas are home to most of the poor worldwide, and agriculture is central to the livelihoods and food security of these population groups. However, the possibility to identify, locate and understand the needs of the rural poor is still limited.

7. To tackle this issue, FAO and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford have proposed a new metric, called the Rural Multidimensional Poverty Index (R-MPI), which was applied to survey data for four countries – Malawi, Ethiopia, Niger and Nigeria, and validated with a field-tested in Malawi, in collaboration with the University of Malawi at Zomba. The joint work is presented in an extended Report, available at <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1470849/> that is published within the FAO Statistical Development Series.

III. Preventing and addressing acute food insecurity at its roots – the Global Network Against Food Crises and Emergency reaction.

8. Acute food insecurity continues to soar, with an annual increase recorded of about 20 million people experiencing high acute food insecurity. In April, the 2022 edition of the Global Report on Food Crises, will likely show an even steeper rise than in 2021. Furthermore, the ongoing war in Ukraine threatens to push even more people into hunger, especially in already food insecure and import-dependent countries. Yet efforts to address acute food insecurity overwhelmingly focus on post-factum emergency food response, rather than relatively more cost-effective interventions to immediately meet emerging needs, tackle the root causes of acute hunger and reverse these trends. Conflict, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic are driving both chronic and acute food insecurity and propelling us further away from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, especially for those left furthest behind in fragile contexts.

9. Agriculture, and the hundreds of millions of farmers who keep the world fed, are bearing the brunt of these drivers, and especially of climate impacts, more so than any other productive sector. Disasters take lives, but they also devastate rural livelihoods, destroy food, and drive-up hunger. Rural livelihoods – farming and livestock production – are key “centres of gravity” – if they fail then there is a very real risk of total system collapse. When these systems collapse; when suddenly, large portions of a population cannot access food, significant deteriorations in food security can emerge rapidly. Agriculture not only offers an immediate means to halt hunger but lays the pathway for resilience building and out of crisis. Yet, this is not reflected in our collective humanitarian response, with just 8 percent of humanitarian resources in the food sector allocated to agricultural livelihoods, despite agriculture being the main source of survival for at least two-thirds of those experiencing acute food insecurity. Humanitarian efforts are absolutely critical and must include space for agriculture and livelihoods, but they alone cannot prevent famine in the long-run or reverse the rising trend of hunger. This requires investments in building long-term resilience of agrifood systems through better integration and increased levels of official development assistance, particularly where food crises are protracted and the context is fragile.

10. The Global Network Against Food Crises, set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Union and the World Food Programme (WFP) and including other critical humanitarian and development agencies, represents a critical partnership to tackle acute food insecurity and move us closer to our goal of achieving Zero Hunger. The Global Network offers a platform for the international community to coordinate concerted and coherent actions to prevent food and nutrition crises, mitigate their impacts, and contribute to the transformation of agrifood

systems. In 2022, in addition to providing key and widely-recognized global and country-specific analytical products on acute food insecurity, the Global Network is supporting key national and regional policy dialogues (including on ending food crises in the Sahel and playing a key role in supporting national pathways as part of the post-Food Systems Summit), with the goal of driving meaningful action and investment at country level to build equitable, resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems and end recurrent and protracted food crises.