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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-third Session

Łódź, Poland, 10–13 May 2022

Provisional Annotated Agenda

I. Introductory Items

- 1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteurs**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**
- 3. Statement by the Director-General**
- 4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**
- 5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe**

The statement will provide a brief overview on the outcome of the deliberations of the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2 to 4 November 2020) on matters related to the Europe and Central Asia region.

- 6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**
- 7. Statement by the Spokesperson for the Civil Society Organizations (CSO)**

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

8. Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine¹

9. The road to transformative agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia – Regional actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

The commitment to improving agrifood systems is deeply rooted in the political agenda in the Europe and Central Asia region due to its economic and cultural significance. Despite the progress made in the region, the region is experiencing several concurrent and interconnected development constraints, including poverty, food insecurity, inequality, unemployment, environmental degradation and the risk of natural disasters.

Transforming agrifood systems in a holistic manner is widely accepted as essential to overcoming these multiple challenges and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recent events have further galvanized the agrifood systems transformation agenda and the urgent need for a change in how we produce, use and consume food. The United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), including the multitude of national and regional dialogues, has enabled governments and stakeholders to share knowledge and know-how on actions and policies being undertaken to transform agrifood systems. The rhetoric is now firmly focused on nutritional well-being and healthy diets for all, allowing people-centred and inclusive approaches, equality, and fairness, and using nature-based solutions to minimize the negative impacts of agrifood systems on the environment and the planet's natural resources.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) and the Nutrition for Growth Summit,² coupled with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, have also contributed to a shift in mindset and an agreement that there is an urgent need to explore opportunities for environmental, economic, and social synergies to ensure food security and nutrition in the region (including the obesity epidemic). This includes increased local and diverse food production and attention to consumers' needs and food environment. It also requires more sustainable and climate-resilient food production and processing, making efficient use and management of natural resources and reversing biodiversity loss, addressing the climate crisis. A holistic and multisectoral approach is important, considering a strong One Health approach, among other initiatives.

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 firmly focuses and redirects efforts and resources for FAO to deepen partnerships with Members to transform to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. The FAO Strategic Framework is guided through the lens of SDGs 1, 2 and 10 and identifies gender, youth and inclusion as cross-cutting themes to be taken into account in all of FAO's programmatic interventions in order to leave no one behind. This resonates with the four levels of change of the UNFSS (human rights, innovation, finance, and gender equality and women's empowerment). Youth empowerment is also a top priority of the Summit.

The background document ERC/22/2 will synthesize the priority issues for the Europe and Central Asia region to urgently gain the optimal balance needed among agrifood systems and the environment and natural resources. It will highlight the need to promote healthy diets and to give focus and voice to consumers. It also will highlight how the principle of leaving no one behind can be considered in all agriculture and rural development efforts, and it will introduce the main interventions in the region to greening agriculture and transforming agrifood systems.

¹ Reference is made to ERC/22/INF/14: Letter from FAO Members - request for an additional agenda item at the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

² The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 was held from 7 to 8 December 2021. More information is available at <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events/>.

Building on the UNFSS results and their significance for the region, Members will be invited to illustrate their priorities and ongoing actions to transform agrifood systems.

10. Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, a practical approach for transforming agrifood systems for healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia

Addressing sustainable food value chains from the angle of nutritional outcomes is a useful way to transform agrifood systems, leaving no one behind. Nutrition outcomes help identify not only entry points for policy-making and project interventions, but also opportunities for responsible investment in agrifood systems.

The background document ERC/22/3 will build on the work that Rome-based Agencies have done in recent years on sustainable food value chains for nutrition,³ with a focus on the Europe and Central Asia region. It will explore how sustainable food value chains for nutrition provide access to nutritious food by all (SDG Target 2.1), and how they may be addressed in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 (*better nutrition*, healthy diets for all, leaving no one behind). Various market governance structures and market modalities will be explored, including public procurement, wholesale markets and supermarkets. Social, economic and environmental themes will be highlighted, including Food Loss and Waste. The role of the private sector will be approached through Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) and due diligence mechanisms. Background regional data will originate from the latest *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition*, in particular on the nutrition situation and the accessibility of healthy diets. Examples will be presented of best practices for sustainable food value chains for nutrition with the potential for scaling up in the region.

Members will be invited to provide their experiences regarding the introduction of the value chain approach and to outline the respective challenges.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

11. Regional results, priorities, the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals

This agenda item will include two background documents related to: i) reporting on the results of implementing the Programme of Work 2020-2021 and lessons learned;⁴ and ii) regional priorities for the 2022-2023 biennium and beyond.⁵

The first background document (ERC/22/4) will have particular emphasis on the results achieved in the region during the 2020-2021 biennium, including major highlights on the implementation of the Country Programming Frameworks in the European and Central Asia region, the results from the Regional Initiatives, as well as cross-cutting themes. The agenda item will concentrate on the regional aspects in terms of the salient follow-up action taken in the European region, including information regarding the support provided in the run-up to the UNFSS and the respective pathways at national level, as well as pertinent issues regarding the implementation of the One Health approach for the region. Specifically, the agenda item will identify lessons learned and recommendations for the future implementation of work in the region.

Members may wish to provide their feedback on the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of work in the region.

The second background document (ERC/22/5) will outline the priority areas of work and will include an overview of trends and developments in the region, including regional aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Development System repositioning. Based on the challenges, it will present regional priorities for FAO's work for the new biennium, highlighting the

³ For more information on sustainable food value chains for nutrition, see <https://www.fao.org/3/i9292en/I9292EN.pdf>.

⁴ ERC/22/4: FAO Results in the Region – 2020-2021

⁵ ERC/22/5: Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

focus of the respective Regional Initiatives. The programme will consider the outcomes of the UNFSS, national pathways, and follow-up to the Paris Agreement. The document presents the regional approach towards implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, including how the regional priorities contribute to the achievement of the Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) and to the facilitation of the achievement of the SDGs in the region.

Members are expected to review the proposed programme of work and the areas of emphasis in light of their contribution to the SDGs at national and regional levels.

12. Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy

Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and presentation of its outline and roadmap.

13. Update on the development of the New FAO Strategy on Climate Change

Progress in the development of FAO's corporate Strategy on Climate Change as key guiding elements for FAO's Programme of Work in the region, presented for feedback by Members.

14. Synthesis of FAO Evaluations 2020-2021 in the Europe and Central Asia region

The synthesis will inform the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia about the results and lessons learned from OED evaluations completed and managed between 2020 and 2021, while triangulating findings with the evidence presented in the 2020 Regional Synthesis. The document will focus on the three Regional Initiatives and their components in the region and the new Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) will be used as a framework for analysing and synthesising results.

IV. Other Matters

15. Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022-2025 of the Regional Conference for Europe

The implementation of the MYPOW is a mechanism designed to enhance the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. The paper will present the progress made towards the indicators and targets of ERC as a Governing Body.

16. Report from the outcome of the debate of the 42nd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

A summary report from the deliberations of the 42nd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), which took place from 19 to 21 January 2022 in Budapest, Hungary, will be presented.

17. Report from the outcome of the debate of the Joint Session of the 41st European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 79th UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry (COFFI)

A summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the Joint Session of the 41st European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 79th UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry (COFFI), which took place from 22 to 25 November 2021 in Rome, Italy, will be presented.

18. Report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

A summary report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) will be presented.

19. Report from the outcome of the debate of the 7th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)

A summary report from the deliberations of the 7th Session of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish), held from 11 to 13 October 2021 in Istanbul, Turkey, will be presented.

20. Date and place of the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe

21. Any other matters⁶

Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference

The draft report, introduced by the Rapporteurs, will be reviewed and discussed for endorsement.

Closure of the Regional Conference

Information Notes

Report from the outcome of the debate of the 44th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The outcomes and recommendations of the 44th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which took place online from 2 to 6 November 2021, will be presented.

Information paper on FAO support to rural youth in the Europe and Central Asia region

The document will outline the situation of rural youth in the region. It will conclude with an overview of FAO work and focus related to rural youth in the region.

⁶ If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any other matters”.