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منظمة
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-third Session

Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022

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

Executive Summary

This document frames the work of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) for the period 2022--2025. It takes into consideration the views expressed by the Members in various fora and reflects the strategic roles and functions of the Regional Conference.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to endorse the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2022-2025.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

ERC Secretariat

ERC-ECA-Secretariat@fao.org

I. BACKGROUND AND OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

1. It is recalled that the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the region regarding matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.
2. In this context, the ERC provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, it conducts regional-level assessments to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food security. It exercises oversight functions and activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization. It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.
3. The technical commissions of the region review technical aspects and issues of importance to the region in the areas of agriculture (European Commission on Agriculture - ECA), forestry (European Forestry Commission - EFC) and fisheries (European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission - EIFAAC, and Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission - CACFish). The commissions' recommendations complement and inform discussions during the ERC on the Programme of Work, its strategic focus and the Regional Initiatives.
4. The results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish are to be used as a basis for the preparation of the ERC for policy discussion and adoption as well as preparation of the priorities for the region.
5. In order to include the priorities identified by the regional technical commissions on forests and fisheries in the Report of the ERC to the FAO Council, reports from outcomes of debates of the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC¹ and CACFish sessions are presented as individual ERC agenda items under "Other matters". The results and activities of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are also captured as an information agenda item.

II. RESULTS

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

6. **Result 1:**

ERC recommendations and guidance on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food security and nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development, sustainability, climate change and FAO cross-cutting themes, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the FAO Council and Conference as appropriate.

7. **Indicators and targets:**

- a) clear and specific recommendations made by the ERC to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities and work in the region; and
- b) ERC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant meetings of the Governing Bodies.

¹ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 31st Session of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) was postponed from September 2021 to 22-24 June 2022, in Killarney, Ireland. Therefore, at the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) a summary report on the work of the Commission will be presented in an exceptional basis.

8. Outputs:
- a) clear, precise and consensual recommendations to the Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the region defined by the ERC; and
 - b) regional priorities defined by the ERC in alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) for the region contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
9. Activities:
- a) review the decisions and recommendations from relevant technical commissions and meetings in the region and incorporate their findings in the ERC Report as appropriate;
 - b) review the performance of the Organization in the region, including the past programme implementation and achievements of the Strategic Framework as well as completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and put forward relevant recommendations in the ERC Report;
 - c) review the effectiveness and efficiency of the decentralized structure (network of FAO offices) in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations and put forward relevant recommendations in the ERC Report; and
 - d) make recommendations on the plans and programmes carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.
10. Working methods:
- a) liaison with relevant statutory bodies and other institutions in the region during the intersessional period;
 - b) collaboration among Members in the region through the ERC Chairperson, the secretariat and the Executive Committees of the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC, CACFish and GFCM during the intersessional period;
 - c) regular contacts and informal consultations, as appropriate, among Members and between the ERC Chairperson and the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, including informal coordination meetings between the secretariats of the regional technical commissions (especially ECA, EFC, EIFAAC, CACFish and GFCM), to foster dialogue during the intersessional period; and
 - d) FAO Representatives (FAORs) organize in-country meetings to inform the stakeholders on the technical papers that will be presented to ERC and report to the Assistant Director-General on the main outcomes of these meetings. The meetings should be open to any interested government officers, and participants from civil society, private sector, academia and NGOs/IGOs.

B. Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters

11. **Result 2:**

ERC recommendations on regional policy and regulatory matters provide sound basis for decisions by the Conference.

12. **Indicators and targets:**

- a) clear action-oriented recommendations included in the ERC report and taken up by the Conference; and
- b) ECA, EFC, EIFAAC, CACFish and GFCM advice on regional aspects of global policy and regulatory matters considered when defining the ERC session agenda.

13. **Outputs:**

- a) clear policy recommendations for the Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

14. Activities:
- a) review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region;
 - b) address any new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the Europe and Central Asia region; and
 - c) in deciding on ERC agenda items for policy and regulatory matters:
 - consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies such as regional technical commissions and other meetings of relevance to the region; and
 - review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora having an impact on the mandate of FAO.
15. Working methods:
- a) regular liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the region;
 - b) informal consultations with Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersessional period; and
 - c) collaboration among Members in the region through the ERC Chairperson, the secretariat and the Executive Committees of the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC, CACFish and GFCM during the intersessional period.

C. Work planning and working methods

16. **Result 3:**

The ERC operates efficiently, in a results-oriented, proactive and inclusive way, according to established work plans and improved working methods.

17. Indicators and targets:

- a) ERC agendas are focused;
- b) ERC documents have a standardized cover page, with a box suggesting proposed actions, and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences;
- c) the ERC allows for a greater and more informal exchange of views and experience among delegates, and also with major regional organizations; and
- d) ERC reports are concise, consisting of conclusions, decisions and action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.

18. Outputs:

- a) a MYPOW for the ERC; and
- b) methods of work of the ERC regularly reviewed and improvements sought.

19. Activities:

- a) consult with Members of the region on the agenda and format of the ERC through the Executive Committees of the ECA;
- b) consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of time available;
- c) review of the status of implementation of ERC recommendations; and
- d) review, as needed, the Rules of Procedure for the ERC as well as the methods of work.

20. Working methods:

- a) consultations among Members in the region, through the ERC Chairperson and Executive Committees of the ECA for continuity between biennial meetings with support from the secretariat;

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- b) written consultations with Members during the intersessional period and as part of the ERC sessions;
 - c) appropriate ERC session modalities based on the specific circumstances within the framework of the Rules of Procedure of the ERC;
 - d) structured and focused deliberations during ERC sessions;
 - e) efficient drafting arrangements for the ERC report; and
 - f) ERC Secretariat support to the implementation of, and follow-up to, the MYPOW.