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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-second Session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022

**Multi-Year Programme of Work 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference
for Africa**

Executive Summary

This document presents the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) for the period 2022-2025. The MYPoW describes the overall objectives, results and mechanisms underlying the operations of the ARC for the coming years. It aims to continue efforts to strengthen communication of programme outcomes with the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO, the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). A report on how FAO's regional activities have addressed regional priorities during 2020-21 and a report on follow up on the implementation of the 31st Session of ARC (ARC31) recommendations are presented for the 32nd Session under the documents ARC/22/2 and ARC/22/INF/8 respectively.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The MYPoW 2022-2025 is presented to the Regional Conference for its endorsement.

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

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I. Overall Objectives

1. A Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2020-2023 for the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) was endorsed at the 31st Session of ARC virtually hosted by Zimbabwe from 26 to 28 October 2020.
2. The overall objectives of the MYPoW reflect the enhanced role of the Regional Conference in the governance process of FAO. In particular, 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.
3. In this context, the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional strategies and activities, with the aim to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation 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. ARC also conducts regional-level assessments to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture, food security and nutrition. The Regional Conference also exercises oversight of the 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.
4. The African Union Commission (AUC), through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), serves as a foundation for the work of ARC. The FAO Multidisciplinary teams' meetings (MDT), organized yearly at the subregional level, and the Regional Management Team Meeting (RMT) at the regional level review technical aspects and issues of importance to the CAADP and priorities for FAO's work in the region, for consideration by ARC.
5. The 27th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) and the 19th Ordinary Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) held in 2021 provided a platform for countries across the Africa region to engage in dialogue and deliberate on the collective direction of the thematic areas of work of the committees and/or commissions.

II. Results

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

6. Result 1: ARC recommendations and guidance provide a sound basis for decision-making by the Council and the Conference on the regional priorities, programmes, regional initiatives, organizational structure and budgets, and issues pertaining to food security and nutrition, agriculture, natural resources and rural development.
7. Indicators and targets:
 - ARC provides timely, clear and specific recommendations to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees on FAO's priorities, programmes, regional initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators.
 - ARC recommendations relating to the regional priorities for FAO's work in the region, under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and Conference reports.
 - ARC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant Governing Bodies.

8. Outputs:

- Clear, precise and action-oriented recommendations made by the Regional Conference reflecting membership priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the region.

9. Activities:

- Review implementation of the regional priorities and PWB in the region.
- Review decisions and recommendations from the Regional Technical Commissions, and other relevant institutions and meetings in the region.
- Review the performance of the Organization in the region, including effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
- Make recommendations on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

10. Working methods:

- Collaborate with relevant Statutory Bodies, technical commissions, RECs and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultations among Members, as appropriate, to foster dialogue during the intersessional period.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, including for informal coordination meetings with the Secretariats of the subregional and regional technical commissions.

B. Monitoring of and Advice on Policy and Regulatory Matters

11. Result 2: ARC recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.

12. Indicators and targets:

- Clear, action-oriented recommendations included in the ARC report.
- Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

13. Output:

- Clear recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

14. Activities:

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting the mandate of FAO.
- Consider the recommendations from FAO Statutory Bodies, including the regional technical commissions, and meetings of relevance to the region.
- Periodically address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the region including the Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector.
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the region.

15. Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region.

- Liaise with relevant FAO Statutory Bodies, regional technical commissions, RECs and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with relevant subregional Groups.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and the Assistant Director-General (ADG)/ Regional Representative.

C. Work Planning and Working Methods

Result 3: ARC operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

- ARC agendas are strategic and focused.
 - ARC provides a forum for a broader and more informal exchange of views and experience among delegates, and with major regional organizations, stakeholders and partners (comprising civil society and private sector).
 - ARC decisions are taken by consensus.
 - ARC reports are concise, articulating specific, results-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
 - ARC documents adhere to corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
 - At least 70 percent of countries participate at the appropriate level in ARC.
16. Outputs:
- Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2022-2025 for ARC adopted.
 - Methods of work of ARC kept under review and improvements sought regularly.
17. Activities:
- Consult with Members on agenda and format of ARC.
 - Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
 - Review the Rules of Procedure for ARC.
 - Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
 - Review of the status of implementation of ARC recommendations.
18. Working methods:
- Consult with Members, through the Chairperson of ARC.
 - Facilitate intersessional activities by the Chairperson of ARC through the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
 - Advance Intersessional work through the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and its Executive Committee for continuity between biennial meetings.
 - Deliver structured and focused deliberations and interventions during sessions.
 - Ensure efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
 - Provide Secretariat support for the implementation of and follow up to the MYPoW.
 - Convene informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson (ICC).