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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

## Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 14-17 May 2024

### Country Office Network – Current status and way forward: A policy paper

#### Executive Summary

The effectiveness of FAO's assistance to countries in reaching their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) targets is linked to the Organization's ability to make the best use of available resources and deliver at scale at country level through a modern and efficient FAO Decentralized Offices Network, allowing the Organization to respond to the aspirations of countries in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to observe international standards of accountability, internal control and good management.

Over the past years, FAO's Governing Bodies, starting with the Regional Conferences, have provided guidance on the Decentralized Offices Network transformation, to ensure greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of the Organization's financial and human resources to better respond to Members' expectations, on a cost neutral basis and without negatively impacting the technical capacity at headquarters.

This document responds to the guidance received from the Governing Bodies to strengthen the Organization's work at country level and proposes measures to address current challenges, prioritizing and tailoring support to the countries' specific needs. In so doing, the overarching principles guiding the adjustment of FAO country presence are that:

- a. the proposed approach and resource allocations are tailored to countries' evolution, specificities, capacities and needs;
- b. flexibility, improved agility (including through pooling of resources) and strengthened capacity (structure and resources) are built in;
- c. office staffing structures reflect modern ways of operating and delivering, with an improved balance between staff and non-staff resources and with due attention to internal controls;
- d. changes are to be implemented in a progressive manner including taking into account current staffing; and

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

- e. proposed adjustments do not negatively impact the regional budgetary allocation to the FAO Representation Network.

Further details on the proposed adjustments for the Europe and Central Asia region are presented in the document.

**Suggested action by the Regional Conference**

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- a. provide feedback and guidance on the proposed measures presented to the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe to adjust the FAO Country Offices network to better respond to Members' expectations for FAO support and delivery under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in support of the 2030 Agenda and beyond;
- b. express in principle support to the set of proposals outlined in this document; and
- c. request Management to proceed with a transparent process of consultations with countries for the progressive implementation of the proposed arrangements.

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

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## I. Introduction and scope

1. A modern and efficient FAO Decentralized Offices Network is key to supporting countries in reaching their targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 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. To deliver successfully under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO Country Offices need to position themselves strategically within the United Nations (UN) system in responding collectively to countries' aspirations in the attainment of the SDGs, while fully observing international standards of accountability, internal control and good management in adherence to FAO Basic Texts.
2. FAO's Governing Bodies have provided guidance over the past years on the FAO Decentralized Offices Network, including:
  - a. In June 2016, the 154th Session of the FAO Council endorsed the region-specific recommendations arising from each of the 2016 sessions of the Regional Conferences, including the creation of new offices or the support for strengthening of existing capacities on a cost-neutral basis, ideally on a cost-sharing agreement with the host government concerned.<sup>1</sup>
  - b. The FAO Council at its 163rd Session (December 2019) noted the need for the strengthening of the work of Decentralized Offices without negatively impacting the technical capacity at headquarters.<sup>2</sup>
  - c. The 42nd Session of the FAO Conference (2021) endorsed the reports of the 2020 sessions of the Regional Conferences, including the specific guidance from the Report of the 32nd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe<sup>3</sup> that: "Requested that FAO further pursue the adjustment of its Decentralized Offices business models – particularly in light of the United Nations Development System repositioning – in order to further align and create synergies with the single action plan under the responsibility of the Resident Coordinator, to ensure greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of the Organization's existing limited financial and human resources, aiming to respond to Members' emerging needs and priorities under FAO's Strategic Objectives and in line with the SDGs and paying special attention to addressing hunger and poverty in the most vulnerable countries, prioritized by the Hand-in-Hand Initiative".
3. During the 2020-2022 biennium, FAO embarked upon a focused effort to address the efficiency and effectiveness of Decentralized Offices. Specific actions included *inter alia*: a) better integration of Decentralized Offices into the corporate structure and further empowering of Regional Offices in their oversight in conformity with One FAO; and b) a revamped organizational structure of Regional and Subregional Offices (overview summary shown in *Annex I*).
4. This document responds to the aforementioned guidance with focus now placed on FAO Representations and other Country Office modalities, to strengthen the Organization's work at country level in the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and to better respond to countries' needs to achieve the SDGs. The document presents proposed measures to address current challenges, prioritizing and tailoring support to meet the specific needs of countries considering the evolving context of operations.
5. The Regional Conference is invited to reflect on the proposals in this document. Following endorsement in principle, a transparent process of consultation, with due consideration to current realities regarding staffing and resources, will be undertaken, leading to the elaboration of an implementation road map of the proposed arrangements.

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<sup>1</sup> CL 154/REP, paragraph 18b)

<sup>2</sup> CL 163/REP, paragraph 10 a) ii

<sup>3</sup> ERC/20/REP, paragraph 32 b

## II. Background

6. FAO Decentralized Offices were established pursuant to Article X, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the FAO Constitution, which states: “1. There shall be such regional offices and subregional offices as the Director-General, with the approval of the Conference, may decide. 2. The Director-General may appoint officials for liaison with particular countries or areas, subject to agreement of the government concerned.”<sup>4</sup>

7. The first Decentralized Offices of FAO were the five Regional Offices which opened between 1952 and 1961.<sup>5</sup> The establishment of full-fledged FAO Representations (i.e. those offices where the function of an FAO Representative [FAOR] has been officially agreed with the host government through a signed host country agreement [HCA]) was initially approved by the Council at its 69th Session in 1976.<sup>6</sup> The establishment of Subregional Offices was endorsed by the Council at its 106th Session<sup>7</sup> in 1994. Over the years, FAO slowly built up the Decentralized Offices Network with currently 144 FAO Representations, with the most recent full-fledged office established in South Sudan in 2013.

8. In the Europe and Central Asia region, the Regional Office (RO) was officially re-established in Budapest in 2007 and the Subregional Office (SRO) for Central Asia was established in Ankara in 2006.

9. As shown in the table below, country coverage modalities in the Europe and Central Asia region include two full-fledged FAO Representations, one country where the representation is co-located in the SRO, two Partnership and Liaison Offices, five countries covered through multiple accreditations, and seven countries through other representation arrangements.

**Table 1: Modalities of FAO’s presence at country level – Europe and Central Asia region (2023)**

<b>FAO country coverage modalities in the Europe and Central Asia region</b>	<b># of countries</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Full-fledged FAO Representation	2	12
Partnership and Liaison Office	2	12
FAO Representation co-located in an SRO	1	6
Multiple accreditation	5	29
Other representation arrangements	7	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100</b>

10. For the purposes of this document, the totality of these modalities is referred to as “FAO Country Offices”.

<sup>4</sup> FAO Basic Texts (2017 edition), Volume I. A, page 10

<sup>5</sup> 1952 in Latin America & Caribbean and Near East & North Africa; 1956 in Asia and the Pacific (to note that the Regional Office for Asia and the Far East was first temporarily opened in China in 1947. Through a decision of the Governing Bodies, in 1948 the office moved to its present location in Bangkok which subsequently became its permanent site in 1953, while the HCA was officially signed in 1959); 1959 Africa; 1961 Europe and Central Asia (to note that the Regional Office for Europe was established initially in Geneva in 1961 until 1970 and relocated then to FAO HQ in Rome until 2007. In 2007 a Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia was established officially through HCA in Budapest)

<sup>6</sup> CL 69/REP, paragraphs 26-29

<sup>7</sup> CL 106/REP, paragraph 34

### III. Roles and functions of FAO Country Offices

11. FAO Country Offices, working under overall corporate guidance, and in line with the Strategic Framework 2022-31, offer policy advice and support to countries in the mandated areas of FAO, facilitated through partnerships, resources and an active country programme to provide technical assistance, develop capacities and deliver core services, while fully observing international standards of accountability to establish leadership and strengthen impact at country level.

12. The offices deliver on the programmatic priorities of each country, as agreed in their respective Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and ensure effective and efficient operations with adequate human and financial resources. Specifically, FAO Country Offices: a) advocate, inform and support policies and investment in the areas of FAO's mandate; b) provide technical assistance and deliver core services; c) assist and catalyse partnership and resource mobilization activities to support agrifood systems transformation; d) position FAO as the specialized/authoritative technical agency in food and agriculture and agrifood systems transformation; and e) ensure risk-smart and accountable operations and management.

### IV. Evolving context – Drivers of change

13. Over the years, both external and internal drivers of change have impacted the development context and hence the needs and expectations from FAO Country Offices which need to be taken into account when considering FAO Country Office Transformation.

*External drivers of change include:*

- a. changes in income levels, economic development and evolution of country context, and structural transformation of countries (impacting the role of agriculture, employment and source of livelihoods);
- b. changes in development agendas to respond to evolving global challenges and the SDGs (climate change, crises and conflicts, migration, etc.);
- c. changes in the agrifood policy context and agrifood systems approach; and
- d. increasing vulnerabilities due to climate change and other factors.

*Internal drivers of change include:*

- a. changes in the size, complexity and type of funding of operations managed by the FAO Country Offices, with a significant portion of these resources derived from extrabudgetary contributions, in the context of a flat nominal Regular Programme budget for FAO (past 12 years);
- b. evolution of global initiatives and goals for which FAO needs to support countries and monitor progress;
- c. evolution of digitalization and work modalities; and
- d. UN repositioning bringing new programming modalities and efficiency changes in the operational environment.

14. Two of these drivers are elaborated further below, namely changes in the income level of countries and changes in the size, complexity and type of funding of operations managed by the FAO Country Offices.

#### ***Country income levels, economic development and evolution of country context***

15. In the Europe and Central Asia region, country income levels have changed over the last 30 years, with an increase in the number of countries in the lower-middle and upper-middle-income categories (100 percent of country offices currently versus 73 percent in 1993).

16. However, despite growth in country income levels, many obstacles hamper progress and the achievement of the SDGs. Although previous regional reports have shown that undernourishment, or hunger, is not a major issue overall in most countries in Europe and Central Asia, the rate of decline in the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) has slowed and even reversed in the past several years in some countries of the region. The prevalence of severe food insecurity, another indicator to measure food security, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), indicates that severe food insecurity is low in the region. Nevertheless, the prevalence of food insecurity at moderate or severe levels, taken together, is not negligible in the region, including in high-income countries, indicating a lack of access for all people to nutritious and diverse foods throughout the entire year.<sup>8</sup>

17. In reviewing FAO's Country Office presence, it is therefore necessary to not only consider country income but also further categorization under the income level (e.g. low-income food-deficit countries [LIFDCs]) and other factors impacting food security and sustainable development, such as susceptibility to natural disasters, climate change and protracted crises.

### *Size, complexity, and funding of operations managed by FAO Country Offices*

18. In the past ten years, FAO's operational context has changed significantly with Regular Programme resources remaining largely stagnant and extrabudgetary resources more than doubling. In the countries of Europe and Central Asia region, FAO operated in 2023 250 active projects with a total budget of USD 355 million.

19. With this growing divergence between Regular Programme and extrabudgetary resources, a growing variation in the size and complexity of country portfolios is also seen. In the Europe and Central Asia region in 2023, the largest extrabudgetary portfolio was in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine (63 percent of the total).

20. However, despite these significant changes in the demand on FAO and the size and funding of operations over the last decade, the Regular Programme staffing model of FAO Country Offices has not evolved.

## **V. Challenges and gaps**

21. Five main challenges and gaps need to be addressed to improve the functioning of Country Offices in the current context, while keeping within existing Regular Programme budget allocations to the Decentralized Offices Network globally and at regional level:

- a. Criteria for Regular Programme resource allocation<sup>9</sup> to Country Offices within the region is not based on defined models.
- b. Regular Programme staffing profiles do not adequately reflect the current realities, complexities and evolving demands of office operations.
- c. Structural, budgetary and administrative set-ups in Country Offices are not agile, with for example, 82 percent of Regular Programme resources funding budgeted posts.
- d. Set-ups do not take into consideration specific country situations and differing needs.
- e. The major rise in the size of country programmes funded by extrabudgetary contributions carries an increased pressure on the current limited capacities, and, subsequently, an increase in the level of activities and risks to be managed. Fit-for-purpose administrative and operational procedures and appropriate delegations of authority, supported by strengthened operational and internal control capacities, are not fully in place to ensure appropriate delivery at scale, while ensuring effective risk management.

<sup>8</sup> FAO, IFAD, United Nations, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO Regional Office for Europe and WMO. 2023. *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in Europe and Central Asia 2022. Repurposing policies and incentives to make healthy diets more affordable and agrifood systems more environmentally sustainable*. Budapest. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc4196en>

<sup>9</sup> With the exception of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) resources.

## VI. Proposed measures for improvement

22. To address the evolving context and the challenges and gaps identified, measures are proposed to be put in place which seek to provide Country Offices in the region with:

- a. a renewed business model, better reflecting country contexts based on agreed principles and criteria;
- b. increased flexibility via a strategic adjustment in staffing profiles funded through the Regular Programme, along with the enhanced allocation of non-earmarked resources (general operating expenses) specifically tailored to match the evolving realities and complexities of operating in a specific country; this includes aligning Regular Programme staff to core functions; and
- c. increased agility through a share of resources being pooled at regional level, enabling a more targeted and effective response to specific country-level needs.

23. The overarching principles guiding the proposed adjustments are that: the approach and resource allocations are tailored to countries' evolution, specificities, capacities and needs; flexibility, improved agility and strengthened capacity are built in; office staffing structures reflect modern ways of operating and delivering, with due attention to internal controls; changes are implemented in a progressive manner, including taking into account incumbency status and natural attrition; and proposed adjustments do not negatively impact the regional budgetary allocation to the FAO Representation network.

### *Adjustments to country coverage, Country Office structures and related Regular Programme allocations*

24. A flexible business model with a solid foundation is key for more effective cooperation to tackle today's challenges as well as adjust to new dynamics and demands likely to arise in the future. FAO Country Offices should be able to quickly adapt to the nature and size of the project portfolio in the country, following a programmatic approach in support to the UNSDCF and the CPFs.

25. Table 2 outlines four models with two subcategories. The four models take into consideration a combination of factors, including country income level and further categorization under the income level (e.g. LIFDC), specific vulnerabilities such as climate change impacts, conflicts or protracted crises, size of the country programme and location of the Country Office in relation to the Regional or Subregional Office.

26. Each model describes the proposed staffing level to be funded by Regular Programme to meet the challenges of delivering FAO's multifaceted and global mandate in a rapidly evolving environment. With these models, an increased share of overall resources would be available for more flexible expenditures, including other human resources and general operating expenses.<sup>10</sup> The models and the countries therein would be reviewed regularly to ensure an agile system for adjustments in response to changing circumstances.

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<sup>10</sup> Up from the current 3 percent.

**Table 2: Proposed models (Regular Programme funded)**

<b>Models of Country Offices</b>	<b>Indicative number of Regular Programme funded Staff (Core)</b>
<b>Model 1: Countries with large programmes and/or with major economic, environmental and social challenges</b>	
<b>1.A</b> – Crisis countries and/or countries with large programmes	Seven (7) core staff
<b>1.B</b> – Low-/Lower-middle-income countries which are also least developed and/or low-income food deficit countries	Seven (7) core staff
<b>Model 2: Countries with middle-income level</b>	
<b>2.A</b> - Lower-middle-income countries	Five (5) core staff + government encouraged to second staff
<b>2.B</b> – Upper-middle-income countries	One (1) core staff (International FAO Representative, with accreditation to one or multiple countries, or one National Professional Officer [NPO] with [Deputy] Regional Representative or Subregional Coordinator as Head of the Country Office) + enhanced national ownership and contribution encouraged
<b>Model 3: Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</b>	
<i>Not applicable to this region</i>	
<b>Model 4: FAO Representations co-located with a Regional or Subregional Office</b>	
<b>4.A</b> – Country Office co-located with Regional Office	One (1) NPO with (Deputy) Regional Representative as Head of the Country Office
<b>4.B</b> – Country Office co-located with Subregional Office	One (1) NPO with Subregional Coordinator as Head of the Country Office

26. Countries in the Europe and Central Asia region belong to the middle-income group, with several officially recognized candidates for Membership of the European Union and others with specificities which bring them into Models 1, 2 or 4.

27. Progressive enhanced ownership and cost-sharing in line with national capacities is the recommended approach in middle-income countries (Model 2). The core staffing would cover an international FAO Representative, accredited to one or multiple countries and national staff, with governments encouraged to consider seconding additional national staff to Country Offices. While cost-sharing is the recommended approach for all middle-income countries, more specifically Country Offices in upper-middle-income countries with higher capacities, reflected by their formal recognition as candidates for membership of the European Union, are encouraged to support enhanced national ownership and contribution to the functioning of the office to better leverage national development and institutional capacities to support both government priorities and regional and global South-South and triangular cooperation. Specific attention will be granted to LIFDCs, ensuring a stable capacity to deliver, with adequate Regular Programme funded staff positions aligned to core functions, possibility to integrate government-seconded staff and a balanced yearly allocation of non-staff resources. The lower-middle-income countries would be strengthened with budgeted posts to better respond to needs.



28. Opportunities for outposting technical officers with the required technical profiles from the Regional/Subregional Offices and/or headquarters would also be explored.
29. The adjustments would entail opening an FAO Representation in Turkmenistan and posting an international FAO Representative in Uzbekistan to better respond to growing needs and related expansion of the field programme portfolio of these two countries.
30. FAO Representations co-located with a Regional or Subregional Office (Model 4) would be restructured in order to benefit fully from the strong support and expertise available through these offices.
31. All models imply an evolution in the staffing composition of FAO Country Offices. Digitalization, the corporate move towards vertical integration of non-location specific administrative transactions in the Shared Services Centre (SSC) in Budapest, and the evolving future of work (e.g. new working modalities) have changed requirements and expanded opportunities and tools, necessitating FAO to adapt.
32. High-income countries may wish to strengthen partnerships with FAO through the hosting of regional knowledge hubs with distinctive features and complementary functions, to leverage FAO's full potential and advance innovation-driven transformation of agrifood systems.

#### ***Additional agility and flexibility***

33. Beyond the proposed changes in country coverage, structure and budget allocation shown in Table 2, additional capacity would be built in to enable "advance funding" for emerging needs, fast changing country situations and/or required programme development support. A pool of resources, equivalent to approximately 12 percent of the staff costs for the FAO Representation network in the region, would be held at regional level for rapid allocation to Country Offices as needed for prompt response to specific requirements (e.g. programme development support, particularly for countries with very low portfolios, interventions to address administrative bottlenecks, specific arising risks, etc.).

## **VII. Further measures**

34. Elements to be considered for future developments, some of which are already under implementation, are presented below for information. These measures are designed with the principle of a cost-neutral Regular Programme allocation to Decentralized Offices, good risk management and adjustment to country specificities and vulnerability level.

#### ***Extrabudgetary programmes/project management***

35. With the growing number of countries managing large, complex extrabudgetary-funded projects and programmes, ensuring the capacity for timely and high-quality delivery while also ensuring the capacity for an adequate and compliant management of the pool of resources entrusted is becoming more acute, requiring strengthened operational capacities, the introduction of specific compliance and internal control measures and minimum standard staffing for Country Offices. This approach not only supports compliance but also enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation. It is therefore proposed that project/extrabudgetary resources approved in support of the CPF be pooled and used in a systematic fashion to permit proper resources management, simultaneously bolstering operational support for projects, and ensuring the strengthening of internal control measures and risk management over the implementation of field activities.
36. Two examples illustrating possible indicative minimum requirements in terms of complementary extrabudgetary funded staff resources (national and/or international) to ensure adequate management and delivery of projects/extrabudgetary funded programmes with risk mitigation and support at country level are provided below:
- a. For a small non-emergency portfolio under direct execution (e.g. USD 5-25 million) extrabudgetary funded staff could include: Food Security Analyst (Consultant [national or international]); Project Manager (Consultant) or Operations Officer (P3);

Compliance/Ethics/ Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (PSEA) (National Professional Officer [NPO]); and Security Officer (NPO or Consultant).

- b. For a larger non-emergency portfolio under direct execution (between USD 26-50 million) extrabudgetary funded staff could include: Food Security Analyst (P3/Consultant); Procurement Officer (NPO/Consultant); Logistics Officer (P3); Operations Officer (P3/NPO); Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E) (Consultant); Administration/Finance or Human Resources Officer (P3/NPO); Compliance/Ethics/PSEA Officer (NPO); Communications (Consultant); and Security Officer (NPO).

37. Dialogue with donors will be pursued and internal guidelines developed to ensure that minimum standard staffing structures be implemented, as appropriate.

### ***Managerial environment***

38. Corporate transformational changes and management adjustments underway, which would help address challenges and bottlenecks at the Decentralized Office level, include:

- a. the strategic transformation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (covering improvement of business processes and of the systems that support them), which will promote better monitoring and reporting, facilitate internal control measures and encourage further delegation of authority;
- b. the vertical integration of servicing work, i.e. centralizing some of the non-location specific administrative transactions to the SSC in Budapest, which will improve speed and coherence and meet internal control requirements in a homogenous manner;
- c. capacity building and career development for Country Offices, including growth opportunities for national staff (e.g. training, missions, international travel, international temporary assignments, etc.) and the development of a human resources approach to facilitate the progression of well-performing national staff to international positions; and
- d. the strategic review of Project Cycle and Operational Modalities to ensure fit-for-purpose processes for project implementation and refinement of fast-track procedures for Level 3 emergency countries to ensure agile and timely responses.

## **VIII. Next steps**

39. The Regional Conference is invited to reflect on the proposed measures presented to the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe to address the challenges encountered in the delivery of the FAO Strategic Framework at country level and provide their feedback and guidance.

40. Should the set of proposals outlined in this document be supported in principle, individual consultations will take place with countries, with a view to expediting concrete implementation plans through a transparent process.

**Annex 1****Selected action taken in 2020-2022 at headquarters and in the regions  
to improve efficiency and effectiveness of Decentralized Offices**

1. In 2020-2021, FAO embarked upon a focused effort to address the efficiency and effectiveness of the business models of Decentralized Offices, in line with the restructuring of headquarters units and to support the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. Specific actions in this regard included: a) the abolition in 2020 of the Office of Support to Decentralized Offices (OSD) at headquarters to strengthen the integration of Decentralized Offices in the structure and management of the Organization, in the spirit of One FAO, and pursue the empowerment of Regional Offices; b) a rethink of the organizational structure of Regional and Subregional Offices as an integral part of Regional Offices; and c) the launch of the Country Office Management and Monitoring Indicators Tool (COMMIT) – a Management information system tool to support more effective oversight capacity to assess Decentralized Offices' performance and delivery on programme implementation.
2. The Restructuring of Regional and Subregional Offices was completed in 2022. The Regional Office structures have been aligned with the new headquarters' model and with a view to improving relevance, timeliness, cost-efficiency, technical quality and effectiveness of the support which Regional and Subregional Offices, through Country Offices, provide to Members. This restructuring (budget and post neutral) followed the principles of One FAO, under a collegial leadership, including the Subregional Coordinators to provide integrated policy advice through technical and investment support teams using virtual networks and achieving an improved, interactive regional governance.
3. The transformation of the regional structures implied changes in the business model with more integration between regions and subregions, thinking together, planning together, acting together and achieving results together. It enabled the integration of Subregional Offices as part of the region, with a customized structure to respond to the specific regional and subregional contexts and the needs and capacities of each Regional and Subregional Office. The new structures of Subregional Offices include capacities for strategic thinking and foresight, multidisciplinary technical support, leveraging partnerships and liaison functions, improving oversight and management functions, introducing more client-oriented services for administrative and operations support through the promotion of vertical integration and strengthened support services, with the Regional Office or SSC, and finally the adoption of a more effective and efficient administration moving towards a digital FAO in all locations.
4. A Global Common Functional Organigramme was developed by the regions (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Regional Offices - Global Common Functional Organigramme<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> Acronyms used in Figure 1: ADG: Assistant Director-General; DRR: Deputy Regional Representative; SRC: Subregional Coordinator; OCOP: One Country One Product Initiative; DVI: Digital Villages Initiative; RTP: Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture; RM: Resource Mobilization; SSTC: South-South and Triangular Cooperation; TCP: Technical Cooperation Programme; CPF: Country Programming Framework; M&E: Monitoring&Evaluation.

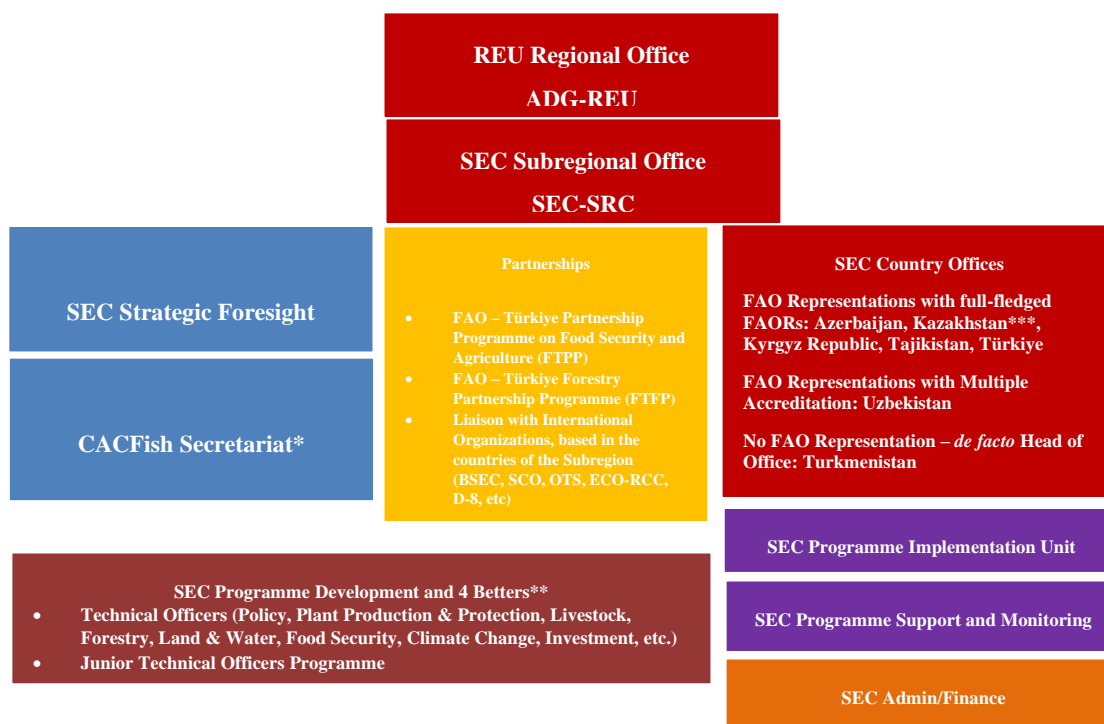
5. The revised set-up was designed with built-in flexibility to adapt its main features to the specificity of each region. The implemented, transformed structures of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and Subregional Office for Central Asia, integrating some region-specific features, is provided in Figures 2 and 3 below.

Figure 2. FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) – Transformed structure<sup>12</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Acronyms used in Figure 2: ADG/RR: Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative; Deputy RRs: Deputy Regional Representatives; SRC: Subregional Coordinator; LOR: Liaison Office with the Russian Federation; PWB: Strategic Planning and Budget; CPF: Country Programmatic Framework; OCOP: One Country One Product Initiative; DVI: Digital Villages Initiative; HIH: Hand in Hand Initiative; RTP: Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture; TCP: Technical Cooperation Programme; CPF: Country Programming Framework.

Figure 3. FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia (SEC) – Transformed structure<sup>13</sup>



\*Governance of CACFish is ensured by REU, only secretarial support is provided by SEC

\*\*Technical teams in the Region and Subregion act as one, as there are no independent technical units in the Subregional Office

\*\*\*Kazakhstan will temporarily remain under direct supervision of REU-ADG

<sup>13</sup> Acronyms used in Figure 3: REU: Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia; ADG-REU: Assistant Director-General for Europe and Central Asia; SEC: Subregional Office for Central Asia; SEC-SRC: Subregional Coordinator for Central-Asia; CACFish: Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission; BSEC: Black Sea Economic Cooperation; SCO: Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; OTS: Organization of Turkic States; ECO-RCC: Economic Cooperation Organization-Regional Coordination Centre; D-8: Developing Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation.