



FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-third Session

Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, 26-28 March 2024 and 18-20 April 2024

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Senior Officers Meeting

26-28 March 2024

I. Introductory Items

- 1) Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Ministerial Session items from 3 to 19 on pages 5-7)

II. Programme and Budget Matters

20) FAO results in the region – 2022-23

The *FAO results in the region – 2022-23* document serves to demonstrate that FAO's work provides a strong conceptual basis and means of action to achieve results for countries in the region, contributing to the *four betters* and Sustainable Development Goal targets related to food and agriculture. Specifically, the document describes results achieved in the region during the 2022-2023 biennium, including major highlights and cross-cutting themes under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. This document also highlights new ways of working, modalities and programmes in effect in 2022-2023 and describes how these have impacted FAO's work in the region.

21) Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

The document *Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31* presents the **regional approach towards implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31**, and the Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022-25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25.

22) Harnessing science and innovation for increased agricultural productivity and competitiveness in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

This document underscores the transformative power of science and innovation in agriculture. It explores technological breakthroughs, climate-smart agriculture practices and digitalization as key drivers of productivity. Biotechnological advances are highlighted, with an emphasis on the importance of capacity building and supportive policy frameworks. The presentation envisions the role of innovations in fostering intra-Africa trade and global competitiveness under AfCFTA, calling for collaborative partnerships to unlock the full potential of agriculture in the region. Ultimately, it advocates for a forward-looking approach that leverages science and innovation to propel African agriculture to new heights.

23) Rediscovering African foods: Promoting native foods for improved nutrition, health and food security

The document *Rediscovering African foods: Promoting native foods for improved nutrition, health and food security* celebrates the nutritional richness and cultural significance of indigenous African foods. It emphasizes the role of native crops and forest-origin foods in addressing malnutrition, preserving cultural heritage, fostering community connections, sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and sustainable management and restoration of natural resources and ecosystems, as well as resilience and adaptation to climate change. The discussion explores challenges and opportunities, advocating for value addition, community empowerment and supportive policies. The presentation calls for a collective effort to raise awareness, promote cultivation and integrate native foods into mainstream diets, contributing to improved nutrition, health of people and environment and food security across the African continent. Ultimately, it envisions a renaissance of African foods that reflects the diversity and vitality of the continent's culinary traditions.

24) How to fight against food loss and waste

This paper addresses the multifaceted challenge of food loss and waste, emphasizing its environmental, economic and social consequences. It explores technological solutions, policy frameworks and educational campaigns as key pillars in the fight against food loss and waste. Infrastructure development and public-private partnerships are recognized as critical components, while the importance of monitoring and evaluation is highlighted for sustained progress. Effective policies, strategies, guidelines, legal frameworks and clear implementation mechanisms are required to support food loss and waste reduction initiatives for the continent to attain its regional and global commitments to reduce food loss and waste. The presentation calls for a comprehensive and collaborative approach, involving all stakeholders, to create sustainable and efficient agrifood systems that minimize loss and waste, ultimately contributing to enhanced food and nutrition security in Africa.

25) Presentation of Reports of the Subregional Consultations

The Subregional Consultations are organized on yearly basis. The outcomes of these meetings held in 2023, including the priorities, will be presented to the Regional Conference.

III. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

26) Global and Regional Food Security Outlook

The *Global and Regional Food Security Outlook* document delves into the complex landscape of food security, addressing global trends, regional disparities and the impact of climate change. It emphasizes the role of technological innovations, trade policies and regional initiatives in shaping the food security landscape. Social and economic factors are recognized as crucial influencers, requiring comprehensive and inclusive strategies. The presentation provides policy recommendations and concludes with a call to action, urging coordinated efforts to secure a resilient and sustainable future for food in Africa and beyond. Overall, it highlights the interconnected nature of global and regional food security challenges and the need for collaborative solutions.

27) Building resilience through agrifood systems transformation

The document *Building resilience through agrifood systems transformation* tackles the urgent need to adapt agrifood systems amid climate shifts, market uncertainties and other shocks. Specifically focusing on Africa, it identifies 13 key "hunger hotspots" where food security is predicted to drastically decline due to a complex mix of factors like conflict, climate variations and economic instability. These issues significantly disrupt food security, escalating social and political unrest while perpetuating cycles of hunger and conflict.

To address these challenges, the report proposes a set of strategies centred on climate-smart agriculture, diversification, infrastructure improvements and capacity building. It emphasizes holistic approaches that encompass inclusivity, digitalization and effective governance. Recognizing the crucial role of community engagement and partnerships, the report stresses collective action in enhancing resilience. Additionally, it advocates for a comprehensive, multi-hazard, cross-sectoral approach that focuses on understanding vulnerabilities, monitoring risks and preparing for crises, including anticipatory actions within agrifood systems. The report highlights the pivotal role of partnerships among diverse stakeholders from governments and United Nations (UN) agencies to donors, private sectors and local communities in effectively tackling shocks and threats to agrifood systems. This emphasizes on collaboration, data-driven interventions and inclusivity through a comprehensive strategy for stronger and more resilient African agrifood systems leaving no one behind.

28) Financing to end hunger for today and tomorrow (SDG 2)

The *Financing to end hunger for today and tomorrow (SDG 2)* paper addresses the dual challenge of immediate hunger crises and the long-term goal of sustainable food security. Urging short-term emergency financing for immediate relief, the document emphasizes the need for sustained investment in sustainable agriculture, technology and innovation. Public-private partnerships, empowerment of smallholder farmers and climate resilience financing are identified as critical components in the fight against hunger. The presentation concludes with a call for data-driven decision-making, effective monitoring and evaluation to ensure the accountability and success of hunger-related financing initiatives, ultimately contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 in Africa.

29) Country Office Network - Current Status and Way Forward: A policy paper

The effectiveness of FAO's assistance to countries in reaching their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets is linked to the Organization's ability to make 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 SDGs, and to observe international standards of accountability, internal control and good management. Over the past years, the FAO 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 guidance 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 specific needs of the countries.

IV. Other Matters

30) Date and place of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

31) Any other matters

32) Adoption of the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft Report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Session.

Ministerial Session

18-20 April 2024

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 Regional Conference for Africa (ARC 32)

The statement of the Chairperson of ARC 32 will provide information on his mandate and on matters related to the Africa region.

6) Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the recent Plenary Sessions.

7) Statement by the African Union Commission

8) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations

The statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations will summarize results of the consultations organized prior to the Regional Conference

9) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector

The statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector will summarize results of the consultations organized prior to the Regional Conference

I. Ministerial Roundtables

10) Foresight analysis: Drivers and triggers of agrifood systems transformation in Africa

The presentation on *Foresight analysis: Drivers and triggers of agrifood systems transformation in Africa* delves into the proactive exploration of key drivers shaping the future of agriculture in the continent. By analysing emerging technologies, climate resilience strategies, market dynamics and cultural influences, the discussion provides insights into plausible futures for agrifood systems. Emphasis is placed on the transformative potential of youth and women empowerment and the role of effective policies in guiding positive change. The presentation concludes with actionable policy recommendations, offering a strategic roadmap for stakeholders to navigate and harness the drivers of agrifood systems transformation in Africa, ensuring a sustainable and resilient future.

11) Blue Transformation in Africa: The potential of aquatic foods

The presentation on *Blue Transformation in Africa: The potential of aquatic foods* underscores the pivotal role of aquatic resources in reshaping the continent's economic and nutritional landscape. By addressing challenges and exploring opportunities, the discussion emphasizes the significance of sustainable aquaculture practices, technological innovations, and robust governance frameworks. The focus on food security, economic potential, and community empowerment highlights the transformative power of the blue economy. With a call to action, the presentation urges collective efforts from stakeholders to harness the potential of aquatic foods for a sustainable and prosperous future in Africa, emphasizing the importance of responsible resource management and inclusive development.

12) Inclusive rural transformation in Africa: Agriculture mechanization, digitalization, women and youth

The presentation on *Inclusive rural transformation in Africa: Agriculture mechanization, digitalization, women, and youth* emphasizes the transformative power of mechanization and digitalization in agriculture. It underscores the crucial roles of women and youth, advocating for gender-inclusive policies and youth engagement strategies. By addressing challenges and showcasing best practices, the presentation calls for tailored solutions and supportive policy frameworks. Public-private partnerships are highlighted as key enablers of inclusive rural transformation, ultimately empowering communities through a holistic approach. The roadmap includes replicable models and strategies to achieve sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind in Africa's journey towards inclusive rural transformation.

13) Decisions of the United Nations Conference of Parties to Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Combat Desertification & FAO cross cutting strategies: Challenges and Opportunities for coordinated implementation in Africa region'

The presentation on *Decisions in UNFCCC, CBD, COP, and FAO Strategies: Challenges and opportunities for coordinated implementation in the Africa region* examines the convergence of goals in international frameworks. Acknowledging challenges, it explores opportunities for synergy, emphasizing the need for policy integration, capacity building and community engagement. The presentation underscores the importance of indigenous knowledge, robust monitoring mechanisms and financial strategies to facilitate coordinated action. With a focus on the way forward, it calls for collaborative efforts among nations, international bodies and stakeholders to effectively implement decisions, ensuring a harmonized approach to address climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable agriculture in the unique context of the Africa region.

14) Agrifood systems transformation in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries

The presentation on *Agrifood systems transformation in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries* underscores the urgency of reshaping agricultural practices in the face of unique challenges. By delving into the current state, challenges and opportunities, the discussion aims to shed light on sustainable solutions tailored to these regions. Emphasis is placed on technological innovations, community engagement and effective governance as catalysts for positive change. Recognizing the pivotal role of supportive policy frameworks and international collaboration, the presentation provides a holistic view, offering insights into actionable steps and a collaborative roadmap for transforming agrifood systems and fostering resilience in the targeted regions.

II. Special Event

15) Livestock Development Strategy in Africa

The Livestock Development Strategy in Africa (with the AU–Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources [AU-IBAR]) aims to transform the continent's livestock sector into a resilient and sustainable contributor to food security and economic growth. Focused on technology adoption, the strategy emphasizes improving productivity, addressing health challenges and facilitating market access. By investing in capacity building, the plan ensures that farmers are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for successful livestock management. Sustainable grazing practices, coupled with climate-smart approaches, form a crucial component, promoting environmental stewardship. The strategy advocates for supportive policies, regulatory enhancements and strategic public-private partnerships to create an enabling environment. Through a well-defined monitoring and evaluation system, the implementation progress will be tracked, ensuring accountability and continual improvement in the livestock sector's development.

III. Ministerial Roundtable

16) Financing resilient agrifood systems and inclusive rural transformation: Boosting public and private sector investment

The presentation on *Financing resilient agrifood systems and inclusive rural transformation: Boosting public and private sector investment* underscores the crucial role of financing in achieving resilient and inclusive agrifood systems in Africa. By exploring investment opportunities, blended finance models, and inclusive financial instruments, the discussion emphasizes the collaborative efforts of the public and private sectors. The presentation showcases case studies and success stories, providing tangible evidence of the positive impact of such investments. A roadmap for sustainable financing concludes the presentation, outlining actionable steps for creating an enabling environment that fosters resilience and inclusivity in Africa's agrifood systems. The focus is on building a robust foundation for long-term, sustainable development through strategic investments and partnerships.

IV. Special Events

17) Members' experience-sharing on the *four betters* and initiatives

This is a dedicated session allocated for experience-sharing among Members on *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. It will be a moderated session to ensure interaction and engagement between participants. Members and stakeholders will share powerful stories around the best practices and success stories that could shape and transform agrifood systems. This interactive session is aimed to bring various best practices to the table that can be useful for Members to inform their efforts in transforming agrifood systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

18) The Regional Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum dialogue with partners

The Regional Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum dialogue with partners aims to catalyse economic growth in Africa through private sector engagement and strategic partnerships. Focused on key sectors and investment opportunities, the forum will explore government policies, showcase successful collaborations and present case studies to inspire actionable insights. By fostering dialogue between public and private stakeholders, the initiative seeks to leverage the strengths of each sector to overcome challenges and drive sustainable development. The forum provides a platform for participants to actively engage in discussions, share experiences, and collectively contribute to the region's economic transformation. As we navigate challenges, the emphasis is on mitigating risks through innovative strategies and learning from successful models. The Investment Forum serves as a milestone in the ongoing commitment to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, fostering a collaborative approach to shape the future of Africa's economic landscape.

V. Plenary Session

19) Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and adopted by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. In addition, a Ministerial Declaration will be submitted for consideration and adoption.

Closure of the Regional Conference