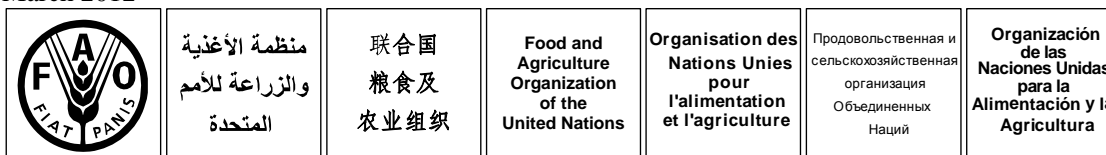


March 2012



TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 and 20 April 2012

Agenda Item 11

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2012-15 OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

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I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives reflect the enhanced role of Regional Conferences 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.

2. In this context, the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It also conducts regional-level assessments, to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food security. It 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.

3. The European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) reviews technical aspects and issues of importance to European agriculture and rural development. The ECA is directly linked to the ERC, and the results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA are submitted to the ERC

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for policy discussion and adoption. The Executive Committee of the ECA shall act on behalf of the Commission between sessions of the ECA, of which it is the executive body. It shall submit to the ECA proposals concerning the general orientation of the Commission's activities and its programme of work.

II. RESULTS

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

4. Result: The ERC recommendations and guidance on, priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets of regional interest, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food security, agriculture and rural development, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the FAO Council and the FAO Conference.
5. Indicators and targets:
 - Clear, specific and consensual recommendations made in a timely manner by the ERC to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the Region.
 - ERC recommendations relating to the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and FAO Conference reports.
 - ERC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and FAO Conference, as well as in other relevant bodies.
6. Outputs: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for the FAO Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budget for the Region.
7. Activities:
 - Review implementation of the PWB in the Region.
 - Review decisions and recommendations from 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.
 - Advise on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the Region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.
8. Working methods:
 - Collaboration with Member States in the Region through the Chairperson of the ERC and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
 - Interaction with the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia as FAO Secretariat in the Region with the European Regional Group, facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference.
 - Liaison with relevant statutory bodies and other institutions in the Region.

- Informal consultations among Member States as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.

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

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

The ECA provides advice to the ERC on regional aspects of global policy and regulatory matters.

10. Indicators and targets:

- Clear and timely recommendations included in the ERC report.
- ERC recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

11. Output: Clear policy recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

12. Activities:

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the European Region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting on the mandate of FAO.
- Consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies and meetings of relevance to the European Region.
- Periodically address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the European Region.
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the Region.
- Facilitate and support subregional consultation processes, including recommendations to convene subregional Ministerial meetings as necessary.

13. Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the European Region.
- Liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the European Region.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia with relevant Regional Groups.
- Collaboration with Member States in the Region through the Chairperson of the ERC and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and FAO Management.

C. Work planning and working methods

14. Result: The ERC operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

15. Indicators and targets:
 - Regional Conference agendas are focused.
 - Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mainly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Member States in a timely manner.
 - Regional Conference documents adhere to new corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages four weeks before the session commences.
 - Eighty percent of countries participate at senior level in the Regional Conference.

16. Outputs:
 - Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Regional Conference adopted in 2012.
 - Progress report on the Regional Conference MYPOW provided in 2014.
 - Methods of work of the Regional Conference kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

17. Activities:
 - Consult with Member States on agenda and format of the Regional Conference through the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
 - Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
 - Review the Rules of Procedure for the Conference.
 - Preparation of the MYPOW, with performance indicators and progress reports to the FAO Council and FAO Conference on the MYPOW.
 - Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
 - Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.

18. Working methods:
 - Consult with Member States, through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture.
 - Intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference through the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture, with support from the Secretariat.
 - Intersessional work through the European Commission on Agriculture and its Executive Committee for continuity between biennial meetings.

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- Structured and focused deliberations during sessions.
 - Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
 - Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow up to, the MYPOW.
 - Informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.