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Agenda item 3. Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) overview and report on activities

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Overview and background

Based on the recommendation of the Working Party on Desert Locust Control in 1954, the FAO Desert Locust Control Committee (DLCC) was established in January 1955 by the FAO Director-General as a global coordinating body for Desert Locust early warning, prevention strategies and management approaches.

The DLCC is the primary forum that brings together locust-affected countries, donors and other agencies to discuss Desert Locust management under the FAO umbrella. It is a global advisory body on Desert Locust early warning, control and emergencies, and provides guidance to the three FAO regional Desert Locust commissions. The three commissions focus on developing the preventive control strategy by promoting the establishment of autonomous national Desert Locust units and strengthening national capacities of their member countries in survey, control, reporting, training, research, planning and safety. The DLCC and the regional commissions complement each other in order to implement a complete global preventive control strategy that reduces the frequency, duration and intensity of Desert Locust plagues while ensuring food security and protecting livelihoods. DLCC has 64 members and three working languages, Arabic, English and French.

The effective functioning of the DLCC depends on the resources from the Trust Fund established in 1966. Thus, DLCC relies solely on annual contributions from member countries to carry out its activities. Contributions are extremely modest compared to the benefits that members receive from the DLCC. Of the 64 DLCC members, 35 members should contribute to the Trust Fund. The annual level of contributions is USD 207 780. DLCC activities must be of benefit to all member countries. In the past, these activities have consisted of the 11-month Desert Locust Information Officer training programme at FAO HQ, support to the Desert Locust Information Service including provision of early warning and the monthly Desert Locust Bulletins, support to the RAMSES GIS and new technologies, and hosting of the biennial sessions.

Since its establishment, DLCC has met 40 times, while its last session met in 2012.

Points for discussion and decisions

- Do the activities of the DLCC warrant regular and timely contributions by member countries?
- How can such contributions and involvement by member countries be encouraged?
- Should future DLCC sessions be organized outside of FAO HQ?