

October 2010



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольствен
ная и
сельскохозяйств
енная
организация
Объединенных

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

Hundred and Fortieth Session

Rome, 29 November – 3 December 2010

Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Executive Summary

In keeping with Action no. 2.31 of the Immediate Plan of Action, the Council is kept abreast of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate to enable dialogue to be maintained with other Governing Bodies as appropriate, in particular the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based food and agriculture agencies.

Presentations will be made on the following topics at the 140th Session of Council:

- High-level Plenary Meeting held during the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- Collaboration among the three Rome-based Agencies;
- Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development;
- International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture;
- Roadmap 2016 to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
- Global Jobs Pact and Social Protection Floor Initiatives;
- Scaling-up Nutrition Initiative and Road Map;
- Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change REDD+ initiative (reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation);
- Reform process of the Consultation Group on International Agricultural Research and the Global Forum of Agricultural Research.

I. Intergovernmental Processes and Inter-Agency Cooperation

High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

1. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG Summit) was held from 20 to 22 September 2010. FAO contributed to the preparatory process for the event by providing input to, inter alia, (i) the Secretary-General's report "Keeping the promise", (ii) the Annual MDG Report, and (iii) the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Thematic Papers on the MDGs. FAO also took part in the public awareness activities related to the event, including the 1billionhungry campaign together with Goodwill Ambassadors as MDG Champions, and also took advantage of the opportunity to seek strengthened collaboration with its partners to explore the possibility of maximizing synergies between its own initiatives and those of its counterparts in the UN system and beyond.
2. The Outcome Document of the Summit lays out the vision for the achievement of the MDGs in the remaining five years until 2015 and calls for a strong, well coordinated, coherent and effective UN system support to governments. The document supports the Rome Principles set out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security and confirms the need for strengthened international coordination and governance for food security through the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, of which the reformed Committee on World Food Security is a central component. Furthermore, it clearly states the need to (i) invest in the agriculture sector both for the attainment of food security and the eradication of hunger, and (ii) in so doing, to pay particular attention to small holder farmers, especially women, as well as (iii) to pay greater attention to rural development.
3. Follow-up action on the recommendations will be taken by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through the Annual Ministerial Reviews and the Development Cooperation Forum. The UN Secretary-General will report annually on the progress in the implementation of the MDGs until 2015, making recommendations, as appropriate, for further steps to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015. A special event in this regard will be organized in 2013.

Rome-based collaboration

4. Following endorsement in 2009 of the joint strategy paper "Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies", collaboration among FAO, WFP and IFAD continues under three concrete, forward-looking and results-based Pilot Actions that the three agencies agreed upon:
 - **Joint communication plan** for 2010 linked to the MDGs and Food Security: The plan includes a joint press conference to launch the new hunger figures, a common platform of messages and actions to support the issue of hunger during the MDG Summit and a common strategy in the area of information;
 - **Countries in transition from relief to development:** following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the heads of the three Rome-based agencies set up a Joint Task Force in order to provide a strong coordinated response to assist the Government of Haiti re-establish food security which includes both the immediate urgent need, as well as medium and long-term rebuilding of food production, agricultural rehabilitation and reconstruction. The collaboration between the Rome-based agencies in Haiti is active and the three agencies are working to identify further areas for collaboration in this regard. Following the recent flood disaster in Pakistan, FAO is working closely with WFP and IFAD to address urgent food security challenges. The three Rome-based Agencies are working swiftly to mobilize resources, logistics and capacity on the ground to address immediate and longer-term food needs. Cooperation between FAO, IFAD and WFP is fundamental to the recovery effort.
 - Collaboration on **Early Warning and Food Security information:** following the FAO Programme Committee's endorsement of management recommendations and response to the "Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO-WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security",

FAO and WFP are in the process of finalizing their respective Corporate Strategies on Information Systems for Food Security (ISFS) as well as the development of a Joint Strategy.

II. FAO membership of Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development

5. On 21 September 2010, FAO, together with the Bill Gates Foundation, joined the **Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development**. Established in 2006, the Foundation is an intergovernmental forum for discussion and proposals bringing together over 60 member countries and incorporating key international organizations (World Bank, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP), as well as NGOs and philanthropic organizations and foundations. The notion of Innovative Financing refers to development financing initiatives (e.g. taxes on air tickets) that move beyond traditional bilateral and multilateral fundraising and spending mechanisms so as to offer greater predictability and stability. Presently, the creation of a Global Solidarity Fund, with levies on currency transactions, is being discussed within this Forum. Subsequently, the Leading Group would disburse financing to existing structures for implementation on the ground.

6. Representing approximately 5 percent of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) over the past eight years, the scale of innovative financing remains relatively small, although some instruments may have a much larger potential. From 2000 to 2008, innovative fundraising generated an estimated USD 52.7 billion in official flow. The Leading Group works with a six-month rolling presidency with each Presidency setting the Group's agenda: the current Presidency is held by Japan, which succeeded Chile in June 2010. Following the Health and Education sectors, Agriculture and Food Security should be new areas to benefit from these innovative instruments.

III. Participation in international agricultural fora regarding child labour, youth employment and the eradication of poverty

7. FAO plays a leading role in the **International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (IPCCLA)**¹. The 2010 Meeting of the Partnership was held at FAO HQ on 19 and 20 July 2010. In May 2010, on the occasion of The Hague Global Child Labour Conference, organized by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in cooperation with ILO, the IPCCLA presented a Joint Statement calling for specific commitment and concrete actions to tackle the elimination of child labour in agriculture. Furthermore, on the same occasion, FAO chaired a parallel technical workshop on Child Labour in Agriculture and contributed to the finalization of the Roadmap 2016 to eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The roadmap acknowledges that the highest incidence of child labour is in agriculture (60 percent) and calls for intensified cooperation across the United Nations and the multilateral system to address the issue.

8. FAO has been particularly active in developing and sharing knowledge and good practices in promoting **rural employment and decent work, especially youth employment**. To this end, FAO has participated and contributed to the main related fora and networks. In 2010, FAO participated in the 5th Global YES Summit² "Rework the World", which brought together the best local initiatives from around the world in terms of employment opportunities for the future. The summit was organized by the Tällberg Foundation and brought together over 2000 participants, entrepreneurs, opinion leaders, local and global leaders in politics, civil society and business – and approximately

¹ The International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in agriculture was set up on the World Day Against Child Labour 2007. Agriculture includes fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock. The partnership members are: International Labour Organization (ILO); FAO; IFAD; International Food Policy Research Institute, representing the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; International Federation of Agricultural Producers, and International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers associations. More information is available at <http://www.fao-ilo.org/fao-ilo-child/>

² The YES Campaign was launched by 1600 delegates from 120 countries at the Alexandria Youth Employment Summit, in Egypt on 11 September 2002, with the aim of developing the capacity of youth to lead in-country youth employment initiatives.

150 different initiatives from around the world, falling within five themes: Energy, Water, Land, Cities and People. FAO also took part in the workshop “Rework People: Integrating the young for employment in a non-conflict society”, presenting lessons learnt from initiatives of employment and entrepreneurship promotion for vulnerable youth undertaken in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

9. FAO has also been increasingly involved in UN-wide initiatives, collaborations and fora, aimed at the **implementation of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) Joint Crisis Initiatives** within the ambit of the Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017). In particular, FAO has worked closely with ILO and the rest of the UN System to strengthen the contribution of rural employment to poverty eradication and crisis recovery, under the CEB Global Jobs Pact and Social Protection Floor Initiatives. From 1 to 2 December 2010, FAO participated in the First African Decent Work Symposium held in Ouagadougou “Recovering from the crisis: the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact in Africa”, organized in collaboration with ILO and the African Union. The Symposium had the objective of finding solutions to the economic and food crisis, to suggest ways to revamp production and to reduce poverty and unemployment in the African continent. The Symposium also aimed at developing strategies to enhance the follow-up of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, adopted at the extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the African Union, which also saw the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and ILO. On this occasion, FAO supported the coordination of a parallel session on rural employment and participated in the parallel session on the Social Protection Floor Initiative. A follow-up “Workshop on Employment, Social Protection and Decent Work in Africa - Sharing Experience on the Informal Economy” was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 June to 2 July 2010. The event was organized within the framework of the joint Africa-EU Strategy and in particular the strategic partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment of the African Union and the European Union. The Workshop provided opportunities to share experience on employment, social protection and other decent work related issues between member states of the European Union, African states and other key actors such as international organizations, civil society and social partners.

IV. Road Map for Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN)

10. Following the publication by “The Lancet” in January 2008 of a series of articles on effective, evidence-based intervention to improve child under-nutrition, and under the auspices of the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition, a group of nutritionists representing relevant UN agencies, international organizations and various stakeholders, such as academic institutions, donors, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and private sector organizations, worked together to develop a framework document for scaling-up nutrition, with particular focus on improving child and maternal nutrition during the period of gestation and up to two years of child age. This work became known as the SUN Initiative, and a SUN Road Map was prepared and presented at a side event held at the UN Summit on the MDGs in September 2010, where it received large support and a wide consensus. The Road Map proposes a multi-stakeholder global effort to reduce hunger and under-nutrition and contribute to the realization of all the MDGs, with particular emphasis on MDG 1 which calls for halving poverty and hunger by the year 2015.

11. The effort to scale up nutrition encourages a better focus on nutrition within development programmes, and emphasizes how effective investments will save lives, improve economic prospects and increase prosperity, well-being and potential of national populations. The SUN Road Map identifies investments that have been successful when implemented within the context of nutrition-focused development policies.

12. The Road Map also provides guidance on means by which country, regional and international stakeholders could work together to establish and implement efforts to scale up nutrition. It gives priority to those countries (36) with the highest burden of under-nutrition, and an estimated total investment of USD12 billion per year for three to five years would be required to address the problem in these countries, to be met from national resources and external aid. The current implementation

phase includes country assessments and identification of programmes that require scaling-up and/or start-up.

V. Forthcoming developments in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

13. Since 2005, UNFCCC has been considering the establishment of an instrument to provide financial incentives to developing countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). Currently, the “REDD+” concept is under discussion, broadening the scope for such a mechanism, including sustainable management of forest, conservation of forest carbon stocks; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

14. These new incentives for climate change mitigation and adaptation offer a great opportunity for implementing sustainable forest management worldwide. The REDD+ mechanism will not only reduce the loss and degradation of forests but also increase the generation and value of their ecosystem services. Eventually, this process may become an important component for development in many developing countries, in which a substantial amount of resources have already being mobilized to support REDD+ activities.

15. Sustainable forest management provides a framework to address climate change issues, livelihood opportunities and conservation concerns in an integrated way. Mitigation and adaptation efforts should provide synergies with other local and national objectives of forest management and with international commitments made on forests.

16. FAO is supporting the preparation efforts of Member countries for REDD implementation, particularly in the area of measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of the forest resources, carbon stocks greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels. This is a component of a more general process of support towards sustainable forest management through a comprehensive programme covering most aspects of forest management and conservation, the environmental and economic dimensions of forest utilization, and forest economics, policy and institutions.

VI. Global Forum of Agricultural Research and reform process of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

17. The Global Forum of Agricultural Research (GFAR), the Secretariat of which is hosted by FAO, aims to (i) mobilize all stakeholders involved in agricultural research and innovation systems for development, and (ii) support their efforts to alleviate poverty, increase food security and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. FAO is involved in the governance of GFAR through representation on its Steering Committee.

18. The ongoing reform process of the CGIAR aims at generating high-quality research output through programmes relevant to stakeholders and beneficiaries and meeting national development needs. GFAR has gained a role of increasing importance in this reform process for organizing the biennial Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) in collaboration with the Consortium and the Independent Science and Partnership Council of the CGIAR. In March 2010 the first GCARD was organized in Montpellier, France. The Conference replaced the GFAR Triennial Conferences and the Annual General Meetings of the CGIAR. FAO contributed to GCARD 2010 by providing a statement during the opening ceremony and presenting a background document on mobilizing the potential of rural and agricultural extension.

19. FAO has also been involved in the reform process of the CGIAR through administrative support, governance and technical advice. FAO hosts and supports the Secretariat of the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC), which replaces the Science Council of the CGIAR, and also houses the interim CGIAR Consortium Office. FAO is represented in the newly established CGIAR Fund Council and, at system level, regularly provides feedback on strategic documents developed during the CGIAR reform. At technical level, FAO has continued to collaborate with the CGIAR centres and has also been contributing to the development of CGIAR Mega Programme (MP)

proposals. The FAO/CGIAR Task Force, which consists of CGIAR focal points located in all technical department of FAO, and which aims to develop greater collaboration between the two reforming organizations, as well as coordinating the development of partnerships with the MPs and Platforms, has been reactivated. The Office of Extension and Knowledge (OEK), which serves as the focal point between CGIAR and FAO technical divisions, chairs the Task Force and facilitates collaboration with CGIAR bodies and centres.