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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Thirty-third Session

Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014

Provisional Annotated Agenda

(A) SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING

6-7 May 2014

Introductory Items

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Appointment of the Rapporteur(s)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Ministerial Meeting items from 3 to 6 on page 4)

Global and Regional Policy and Regulatory Matters

7. Challenges for the Eradication of Hunger, Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Extreme Poverty

The document indicates how, one year ahead of the deadline settled by the Millennium Development Objectives, the goal of “reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” has been achieved in 16 of the 33 countries of the Region, with 6 of these countries achieving the goal of reducing by half their absolute number of hungry (World Food Summit goal). However, in order to address the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, a political commitment coupled with a greater understanding of food insecure groups is required. Similarly, improved governance mechanisms and enhanced coordination between sectors and public policies, as well as specifically-defined policies, programmes and investments for the most vulnerable communities are also required. Rural labour markets must also be improved, school feeding programmes must be expanded and gender, social protection and family farming policies must be promoted.

8. Challenges for the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, reducing risks and improving the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, in a context of climate change

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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



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The document shows how the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have increased their agricultural, forestry and fishery production at rates above the global average. However, these countries also face serious problems of soil degradation, depletion, water pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, social, economic and environmental sustainability threats, and increased risks associated with climate change. The document also highlights how the increased vulnerability of these sectors to natural disasters and weather events such as droughts, floods, frosts and hurricanes has led to recurring emergencies threatening the livelihoods of thousands of people. It therefore focuses on the main action areas regarding policies, incentives, regulatory frameworks, and research and innovation mechanisms coupled with the agricultural production structural changes required to offset those trends. It also assesses the implementation of mechanisms conducive to the adaptation of the agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fishery sectors to climate change.

9. Towards inclusive and efficient development of agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international level

The document stresses that globalization, trade liberalization and commercialization have modified the way in which agricultural commodities are produced, supplied and consumed, and assesses the main implications of these changes on LAC's agricultural and food systems. Agricultural and food systems are characterized by increasingly integrated supply chains that have progressively become more science-based and capital-intensive. Rapid urbanization has led to demands for more and enhanced processed products in ready-to-use forms. Consumer expectations regarding food safety, nutrition and health resulted in greater attention to standards at all production and distribution levels and in demands for safe, good quality and nutritious products at timely and regular intervals. Subsequently, supply chains have become more global, complex and diverse, with agricultural markets generally becoming more integrated and risky. The document illustrates how these changes have affected countries and communities within countries in different ways. Small countries, small holders, women and youth have generally not benefited equally from the newfound globalized opportunities. Hence, it is relevant to emphasize the importance of more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels, as recommended by FAO.

Programme and Budget Matters

10. Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region 2014-17

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2012-13, and will provide guidance on regional priorities for the 2014-15 and 2016-17 biennia. The discussion will take place using the Revised Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013 as frames of reference. The priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), and the plans and priorities of such partners as the Regional Economic Organizations, CSOs and the Private Sector will also be discussed within this context.

11. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of the FAO Country Offices network in the Region will be reviewed, and recommendations will be formulated in enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

12. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. It will entail a discussion on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) as a Governing Body.

Other Matters

13. Date and Venue of the 34th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

14. Any other matters

INFORMATION NOTES¹:

- ***The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)***

The most recent FAO estimates indicate that the number of people worldwide who are unable to meet their dietary energy needs has declined by 26 million since the last survey, for a total of 842 million people or 12 percent of the world population. In the developing Regions, significant progress has been made in achieving the target of the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) on halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are still 47 million people who suffer from hunger. However, this is considered as the Region that has made the greatest progress in the world, with 16 of the 33 countries concerned achieving the hunger reduction threshold.

- ***Update on the Committee on World Food Security***

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat will provide an update on the main outcomes of the CFS since the last Regional Conferences met in 2012 and on the current priority activities of the Committee: Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises Situations and Principles on responsible agricultural investment.

- ***Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)***

The ICN2 is a positive and pro-active global policy response by FAO to tackle unacceptably high and persistent levels of malnutrition. The High-level Conference will be held at FAO Headquarters (Rome, 19-21 November 2014). This document provides Members with information on the objectives and intended outcomes of the Conference.

- ***Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2012-13***

Information will be provided on FAO's most significant results and achievements in the Region in each of its priority areas, and in response to the demands for technical cooperation raised by different Member Nations in the respective programmes.

- ***Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions***

The conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean will be assessed with regard to: (i) policy and regulatory matters and (ii) programme and budget matters. The Regional Fora include: the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LAFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (LDAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPECAALC).

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

¹ If they so wish, delegates may comment on Information Notes under “Any other matters”.

(B) MINISTERIAL MEETING

7-9 May 2014

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 Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Statement of the Chairperson of the 32nd LARC will provide a synopsis of the outcome of deliberations at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 15-22 June 2013) and the 144th Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 11-15 June 2012) as they relate to the Latin America and the Caribbean 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 39th and 40th Plenary Sessions, and will report on all activities undertaken in 2012-13.

➤ **Review and Debate on the Report of the Conference**

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed, discussed and subsequently endorsed. The discussion will encompass:

I. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

II. Programme and Budget Matters

III. Other Matters

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

INFORMATION NOTES:

- ***Panel 1: Governance for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Maintaining the momentum achieved in the Region with regard to the targets established for the first Millennium Goal will necessarily entail intensification and acceleration of structural transformations impacting on income creation and redistribution. Moreover, sectoral and short-term policies contributing to poverty reduction in the Region are also expected to be strengthened to a certain extent. Similarly, the multi-dimensional character of food security will require a multi-disciplinary approach and coordination efforts substantiated by effective governance, in keeping with the principles of participation, transparency and accountability, as well as gender and social protection.

- ***Panel 2: Challenges for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (post-2015)***

Twenty years after the Rio Summit, Latin America finds itself in an excellent position to achieve sustainable development. The Region has witnessed unparalleled economic growth in the recent past, and has made great breakthroughs in the reduction of extreme poverty, malnutrition and hunger. Although the Member Nations of the Region have enhanced their environmental policies, natural resources and biodiversity conservation is nevertheless still an important challenge to be faced. Moreover, adaptation to climate change will be a significant factor in maintaining growth levels in tandem with development and food security objectives. The agriculture and livestock sectors are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events affecting small family farmers. Public policies, knowledge management and sector financing will impact on the ability of these sectors to adjust to climate change variations.

- ***Panel 3: Repositioning Family Farming in LAC agenda***

The text outlines the main conclusions of the first Regional Dialogue on Family Farming, organized by FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to establish the coordination mechanisms and actions that must be addressed during the International Year of Family Farming 2014 in LAC countries. The document reflects the views of 23 Member Nation Government representatives, Family Farming Organizations and International Organizations participating in the event.

- ***Panel 4: Prospects of Production and Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean***

After a marked recovery in 2010 and good performance in 2011, agriculture growth in Latin America and the Caribbean stagnated during 2013. It should be noted that this slowdown has been more pronounced than previous economic slowdowns. Economic conditions in 2014 are, however, expected to be conducive to the growth of regional agricultural production and trade. In this connection, policies will need to be put in place to improve agricultural competitiveness and returns overall, and to boost family farming production with its concomitant inclusion in value chains.

- ***Panel 5: Strengthening South-South Cooperation for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean***

In September 2013, the Corporate Programmes Monitoring Council of FAO approved a new South-South Cooperation Strategy (SCS) with the goal of enhancing knowledge, experiences, good practices, policies, technology and technical knowledge, as well as resource mobilization among developing countries. The Strategy is based on four pillars: a) to facilitate exchanges and adoption of development solutions; b) to promote platforms in establishing knowledge networks; c) to support the SCS at a political level; and d) to promote an enabling environment in the efficient use of SCS within the framework of FAO activities. The Organization is expected to facilitate coordination and foster dialogue, exchange and consensus. It will also serve as a knowledge agent for more extensive international processes in ensuring South-South Cooperation (bilateral, trilateral, multilateral), in addition to ensuring that triangular cooperation is adequately addressed during the debates on related policies and results.