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Organización
de las
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para la
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ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS


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Agenda Item 7

Proposal to Establish a Global FAO Commission on Statistics


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Proposal to Establish a Global Commission on Food and Agricultural Statistics

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Outline of the Presentation

- Introduction and Background
- Current Governance Structure and Limitations
- Ongoing Review of FAO Governing Bodies
- Advantages of the Global Commission
- Global & Regional Governance
- Recommendations
- Feedback and Questions



Introduction and Background (1)

- Role of Food and Agricultural Statistics in the 2030 Agenda: important and urgent to strengthen statistics governance and coordination
- Absence of global international platform for country involvement in strategic discussions on food & agricultural statistics.
- Consequences:
 - Limits the adoption and implementation of global statistical methods and standards.
 - Statistical capacity development priorities not established in consultation with countries.
 - Data published by FAO are not peer-reviewed with countries
- Strong support for establishment of a global body on Food and Agricultural statistics from statistical regional bodies.
- Acknowledged as a priority by Member Countries in FAO's governing bodies



Introduction and Background (2)

- Establishing a Global Body on Agricultural Statistics:
 - **Recommended** by 26th Session of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural & Livestock Statistics for the Latin America & the Caribbean (2013) and **Re-iterated** at the 27th Session (2015)
 - **Recommended** by 23rd Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2013) and **Re-iterated** at the 24th Session (2015)
 - **Supported** by 25th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2014)
- Proposal and recommendations from Regional Statistical bodies **noted** by FAO Regional Conferences; recommendation **endorsed** by African Regional Conference (2014).
- Proposal **contemplated** in the FAO Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2017



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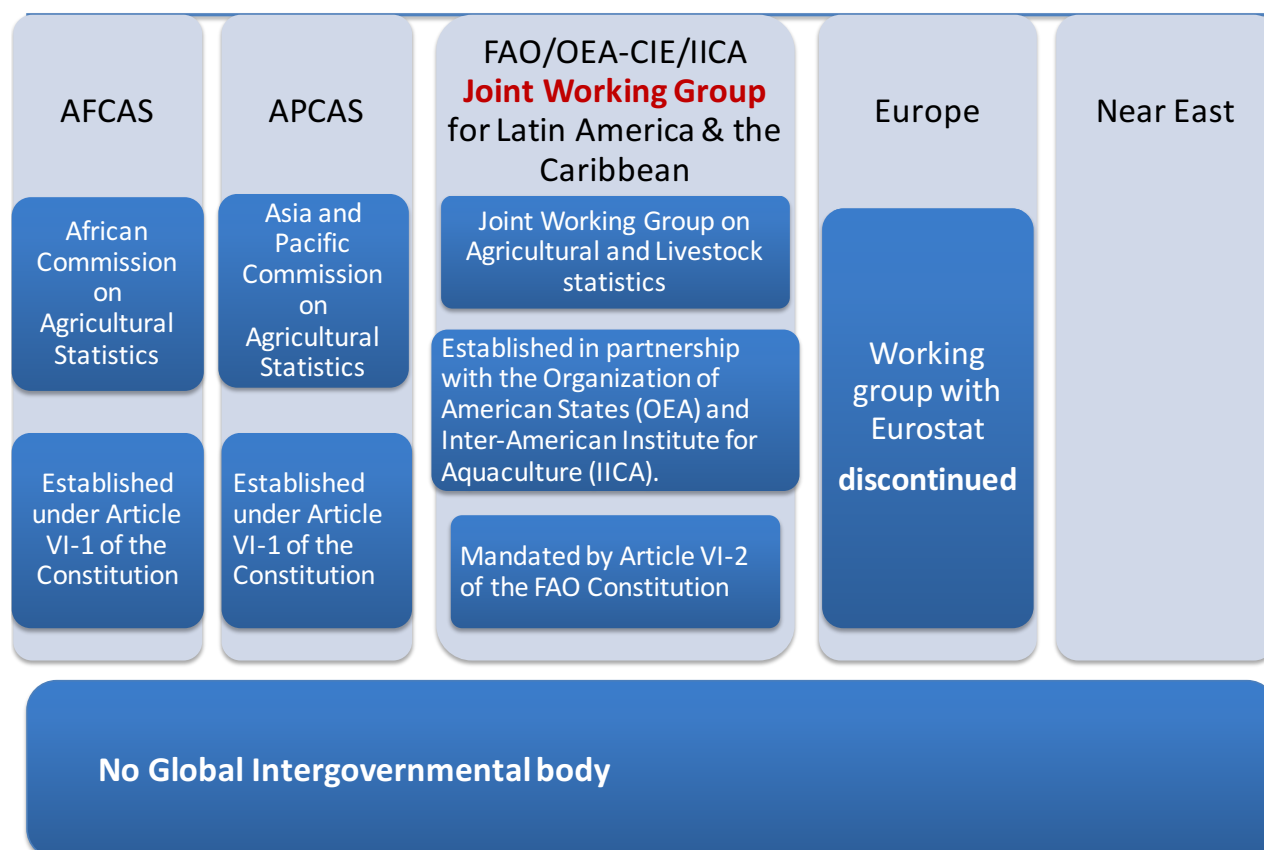
Introduction and Background (3)

- Proposal **reviewed** by Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) at its Ninety-ninth Session (October 2014)
 - Recognized that a FAO body dedicated to addressing statistical matters at global level could be useful
 - Requested clarification on the relationship between existing regional statistical bodies and the global one
- 150th Session of the FAO Council “*noted that the CCLM agreed to consider the proposal to establish the Commission on Statistics at a future session.*” (December 2014)



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Current Governance Structure for FAO Statistics



Low Visibility:

- No formal reporting to FAO Governing Bodies (FAO Conference and FAO Council)
- Low priority of statistics at regional level: recommendations from AFCAS/APCAS only as information item at the FAO Regional Conferences

Inequities:

- Different bodies across regions = 2 Regional Commissions, 1 Working Group
- Absence in the Near East and Europe
- No Global Intergovernmental body

Limitations of Current Structure

Inefficiencies:

- Overlap/repetition of agenda items in current regional meetings
- Intensive administrative support from FAO Statistics Division

Absence of country role in global coordination

- Limited dialogue & coordination among regional bodies; lack of harmonization
- No international platform for country involvement and participation in strategic discussions on agricultural statistics

Ongoing Review of FAO Governing Bodies

- FAO Conference resolution 11/2015 recognized the need “to **enhance the efficiency of the organization and its governance**” and requested the Director-General “to continue to explore methods to enhance cost efficiencies for statutory bodies, in particular, in relation to the meetings of such bodies”
- As noted by the CCLM, the **current external governance structure needs to be reviewed and modified**, particularly to avoid duplication of effort while exploring opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness gains



Advantages of the Global Commission

- More visible and higher-level platform for providing national inputs and expressing statistical needs
 - Greater possibility to influence agenda and the decisions taken by FAO Governing Bodies, such as Council and Conference
 - Potential for a bigger role for the Regional Conferences in addressing statistical matters
- Opportunity for knowledge exchange/interaction across regions
- Ownership of global statistical standards
- Improves overall efficiency by:
 - Eliminating duplication across the existing bodies
 - Streamlining current & differential mechanisms to address regional statistical issues, not reviewed for over 45 years



Global & Regional Governance

- Two-tiered approach that leverages the strengths of a Global focus with significant interaction at Regional Level
- All members of regional bodies (and non-members) invited to participate in the Global Commission
- Create permanent Regional Working Groups of Global Commission in place of the existing regional bodies and to cover regions without any mechanism.
 - RWGs to meet before the Global Commission to identify regional issues/approaches and come up with recommendations to be brought to the attention of the FAO Global Commission
 - Dedicated agenda items of the Global Commission focusing on particular regional issues and needs, with the benefit of interaction with other regions having similar interests.
- Create a Bureau of the Commission with one representative from each Region to serve on the Intersession period



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Recommendations

- The 26th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics is invited to:
 - Endorse the two-tiered approach to integrate the current statistical governance arrangements within a single Global Statistics Commission, with permanent Regional Working Groups and designated regional representation on the Intersession Bureau of the Global Commission.
 - Include this recommendation in its final report and to forward them to FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.



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Feedback and Questions

Thank you



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