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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirtieth Session

**Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018**

## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING

19-21 February 2018

#### I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

**1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur**

**2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable**

*(Please see Ministerial Session items from 3 to 8 on page 8.)*

#### II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

**9) State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues**

FAO released in 2017 the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, the report indicates after a prolonged decline, World hunger appears to be on the rise again. Much of the recent increase in food insecurity can be traced to the greater number of conflicts often exacerbated by climate-related shocks. Under this item of the agenda, the following topics will be developed to provide in-depth information and recommendations will be brought up to be considered by the Regional Conference, FAO and countries:

- Situation and trends in food security;
- Trends in multiple burdens of malnutrition in Africa;
- Key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition;
- Population growth, urbanization and income growth – rising and changing food demand;
- Raising agricultural productivity for sustainable growth; and
- Private sector opportunities and challenges.

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### **10) Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods**

The paper will provide an update on the implementation of the FAO Climate Change Strategy in the Africa region. It will assess the impact of climate change on food and nutritional security and explore how building resilience to climate-induced shocks, contributes to sustainable development of agricultural and food systems. It makes the case for not only focusing on mitigation of the impact of human-induced shocks when they occur, but also on pre-emptively minimizing the likelihood of the occurrence and magnitude of such hazards. The paper will address the following key areas:

- Advocate for the systematic mainstreaming of resilience and disaster risk management into development strategies;
- Improved connectedness of interventions and actors across the development and emergency divide;
- It will make the case for not only focusing on mitigation of the impact of human-induced shocks when they occur, but also on pre-emptively minimizing the likelihood of the occurrence and magnitude of such hazards;
- It will underscore the importance of supporting evidence generation through analytical work on, inter alia, measurement/assessment of resilience and vulnerability for sound policy and decision-making.

### **11) Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa**

With 200 million people aged between 15 and 24, Africa has the youngest population in the world. This could represent a huge demographic dividend for the region, yet it is not harnessed to its full potential. Youth, especially in rural areas, are increasingly struggling to find productive work that allows them to earn a decent income and increasingly migrate to urban areas and abroad. Relatively low official youth unemployment rates in the region (mostly under 10 percent) mask endemic underemployment and high rates of poor quality informal jobs. Over 90 percent of the youth in employment are working poor, and youth are also overrepresented among the extremely poor. The agricultural sector and the rural economy can and need to do more in contributing to solve the youth employment challenge in the region. The paper will address:

- Rural-urban linkages as an opportunity to boost rural economies and improve job prospects in rural areas;
- Policies and recommendations for promoting agribusiness entrepreneurship opportunities for youth;
- Climate finance and green jobs as an opportunity for youth employment in rural areas; and
- Youth engagement in policy dialogue around agri-food systems, experiences and recommendations for the way forward.

### **12) Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Biodiversity is an important factor for the achievement of food security and improved nutrition. All agricultural sectors (crop and livestock agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) rely on biodiversity and on the ecosystem functions and services they underpin. However, the sectors also affect biodiversity through various direct and indirect drivers. This impact may also affect the agricultural sectors, and therefore potentially food security and nutrition and the provision of vital ecosystem functions and services.

The FAO Conference, at its 40th Session, welcomed FAO's initiative to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform; and requested FAO to facilitate, in collaboration with its partners, the integration of biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels<sup>1</sup>.

Biodiversity mainstreaming will be considered in 2018 by relevant FAO Governing Bodies, including the Regional Conferences. Results will be reported to the FAO Conference and the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### **13) Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow up actions at regional and country level**

The discussions will focus on the outcomes of the last session of CFS with special attention to specific focus areas for Africa, such as work on nutrition and food systems and on urbanisation and rural transformation.

At CFS 44, the Committee decided the main thematic area of its work in the next two years will be on nutrition, intended to result in a global, multistakeholder consensus on a policy instrument to positively shape food systems and sustainably-based diets. A High Level Panel of Experts report on nutrition and food systems provides independent, evidence based analysis to help CFS in this work, and the outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diet and Improved Nutrition will help inform CFS on regional priorities. CFS will organize two events in 2018, looking at the food security and nutrition implications of urbanization and rural transformation on lower income groups and on promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum. These will help CFS determine the feasibility of further policy work on these topics.

### **14) Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO's Inter-Regional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS**

The Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS (GAP)<sup>2</sup> was officially launched during the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Conference, held in July 2017. The GAP recommends actions to address food security and nutrition challenges through specific actions at the global, regional, national and local levels to achieve three interrelated and mutually reinforcing objectives as follows:

- Enabling environments for food security and nutrition;
- Establishing sustainable, resilient food systems that support healthy diets and nutrition;
- Empowering people and communities to achieve improved food security and nutrition, with a focus on vulnerable groups.

## **III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS**

### **15) Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region**

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously agreed regional priorities during 2016-17 and will provide guidance on areas of regional priority for 2018-19 and beyond. The discussion will be informed by the results of FAO's work in the region, the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 approved by the FAO Conference in July 2017, the priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, and the plans and priorities of partners such as the regional economic organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector.

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<sup>1</sup> C 2017/33

<sup>2</sup> The development of the Global Action Programme has been led by FAO in collaboration with UN DESA, OHRLSS and with other UN Organizations.

**16) Decentralized Offices Network**

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of FAO's decentralized offices network in the region will be reviewed and recommendations formulated to enhance the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at regional and country level. The paper will also refer to the 40th Anniversary of FAO country Representations (2017-2019), for which commemorative activities are being undertaken to highlight the importance of FAO's field programme and long-term presence through country offices across the region.

**IV. OTHER MATTERS****17) Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Africa**

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is discussed and agreed as a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO, focusing on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets as a governing body.

**18) Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa****19) Date and Place of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa****20) Any Other Matters**

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Session.

## INFORMATION NOTES<sup>3</sup>

### **a) Summary Report of Recommendations of FAO Regional Bodies ((AFWC: wildlife/forestry, fisheries (CIFAA), statistics (AFCAS))**

Regional bodies in forestry and wildlife, fisheries and agricultural statistics have regular consultations with documented recommendations that are summarized for the information of the Regional Conference and its consideration.

### **b) Reporting on the Recommendations of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)**

Following the recommendations of the 29th Session of the ARC, the report shows the results achieved in Africa during the biennium 2016-2017 and the implementation of the recommendations of the 29th Session of the ARC.

### **c) International Year of Pulses (2016)**

This document will provide an overview on the main outcomes.

It will elaborate on heightening public awareness of the great value of pulses regarding nutrition as well as a major component of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition. The IYP created unique opportunities for exploiting entry points in the food chain for better utilization of pulse-based proteins, further global production of pulses, broadened crop rotations and addressing challenges of trade in pulses. For Africa, a key event to achieve these goals was the hosting of the first ever Pan-African Grain Legumes Conference which was held jointly with the World Cowpea Conference in Zambia where the key advances in research and development of pulses were highlighted.

### **d) Outcomes of the Symposium on “The Role of Agriculture Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Africa”**

The Africa Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition took place from 22 to 24 November 2017 at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It brought together African countries with an aim to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives of smallholder farmers, in the dialogue on the role and use of agricultural biotechnologies.

The outputs of the regional consultation meetings include (a) identification of key elements of a comprehensive regional action plan and road map, including capacity development initiatives targeted at supporting the needs of smallholder farmers; (b) identification of priority themes and possible partners for South-South cooperation mechanisms to enable countries in the region to benefit from the expertise and experience of their neighbours, mutually support each other and develop harmonized and synergetic approaches; and (c) identification of regional R&D themes, which address important constraints for improved food security and nutrition in the region.

### **e) Outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diet and Improved Nutrition**

The Africa Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition took place from 30 to 31 October 2017, in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. The Symposium was jointly hosted by FAO and WHO in partnership with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD

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<sup>3</sup> If they so wish, delegates may comment on information notes under "Any other matters".

Agency, various Regional Economic Commissions, the Africa Development Bank, UNICEF, WFP, IFAD, UNECA, IFPRI and other key regional stakeholders.

The purpose of the Africa Regional Symposium was to review evidence, examine policy and programme implications and provide recommendations on how sustainable food systems could optimize improvement in nutrition outcomes with nutritionally balanced diets and healthy lifestyles in Africa. It showcased the policies and programmes in place at national level and explored best practices and lessons that could be learned within the region.

The outcomes of the Symposium include: (a) recognition of the regional dimensions and specificities of food security and nutrition challenges in Africa for policy making in relation to food systems; (b) an enhanced awareness and understanding of the features of a food systems approach for African countries and the region through highlighting Africa's desire to eliminate hunger and all forms of malnutrition sustainably; (c) facilitation of policy actions to implement the UN-Decade of Action on Nutrition in line with ICN2 Framework for Action; and (d) reinforcing mutual accountability to meet regional and global nutrition commitments through a food systems approach, among others.

#### **f) Management of the Fall Armyworm in Africa**

The document will elaborate on measures taken by FAO and different partners to assist farmers in managing Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*).

#### **g) Note on Side Events and Subregional Consultations**

The document provides a brief summary of issues to be discussed during the side events and the subregional consultations. The subregional consultations will focus on the prioritization of needs of countries and subregions for guidance on the statements to be introduced to the Ministerial Session by the subregional representatives.

### **MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE**

The Ministerial Round Table will address the following points:

#### **1. The SDG 2030 Agenda: *Delivering Sustainable Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa***

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including ambitious global targets on poverty and hunger eradication. At the continental level, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation was launched in 2014, in line with the African Union Agenda 2063, the 50 year Transformative Agenda for Africa. Both frameworks have strong interlinkages due to thematic focus on sustainable and inclusive growth, with positive implications for renewed commitment towards rural transformation. The Ministerial Round Table will discuss the potential opportunities for domesticating the SDGs in alignment with the Malabo framework as part of a wider shift to accelerate inclusive agricultural growth in the Africa region.

#### **2. Zero Hunger**

Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025, responding to the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge, supports and capacitates governments in focus countries to engage in multi-sectoral planning, coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation with financial commitments to food security and nutrition policies and programmes under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative.

The main expected result is to accelerate and add value to ongoing regional and country efforts through capacity strengthening and inter-sectoral coordination for accountability on investments, with coherent and harmonized programme delivery at all levels.

The Round Table will inform on joint actions taken by FAO and its partners in different areas aiming at eradicating hunger by 2025.

- Improving access to data and information by reinforcing food security and nutrition information systems to inform policy making
- Supporting policy dialogue and development of evidence-based nutrition sensitive agriculture policy and investment.
- Developing capacity in preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating evidence based policies, investments and programmes on food security and nutrition.
- Assembling and disseminating best practices to improve uptake of knowledge, technologies and good practices, including working with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in establishing an African Centre for Best Practices, Capacity Development and South-South Cooperation.

### **3. 40th Anniversary of FAO country Representations**

This event will celebrate FAO's lasting commitment to the field and country-level cooperation with host governments. It will give visibility to the achievements of FAO's country programmes and advocate for the role of the Organization's country offices. The 40th anniversary initiative is an opportunity to raise awareness of FAO's decentralized operations and strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization and partnerships, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Particular emphasis will be placed on the importance of FAO's long-term presence and technical assistance in the field for contributing to member countries' achievement of the SDGs

### **4. Synthesis of main findings and recommendations**

## **B. Ministerial Session**

**22-23 February 2018**

### **3) Statement by the Director-General**

### **4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

### **5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa**

The statement of the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa will provide information on his mandate and a brief on the outcome of the deliberations of the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, **3-8 July 2017**) and the **156th** Session of the FAO Council (Rome, **24-28 April 2017**) on matters related to the Africa 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 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions, reporting on the activities undertaken in 2016-2017.

### **7) Statements on Prioritization of Needs of Countries and Subregions by the Subregional Group Representatives**

### **8) Outcomes of the Consultation of the Civil Society Organizations**

Statements by the subregional group representatives summarizing results from the subregional consultations held on 21 February 2018.

### **Review and Endorsement of the Draft Report of the Conference**

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and approved by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. The discussion will cover: i) Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Issues; ii) Programme and Budget Matters; iii) Other Matters.

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

**Ministerial Round Table** will elaborate on Zero Hunger and a session will be held to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of FAO country Representations.

Lastly the Round Table will present a brief synthesis of main findings and recommendations of the Draft Report of the Conference