

Session 1 – Senior officials meeting – kick-off

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The kick-off meeting will outline the main objectives to be achieved in the Informal Consultation. It is planned to be opened by FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, the Minister for Agriculture of Uzbekistan, as Chair of the Regional Conference for Europe, as well as by the Chairperson of the Europe Regional Group, and the Deputy State Secretary for International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, as host of the Informal Consultation.

The session will provide a key overview of the new proposed Strategic Framework for FAO and its linkages to the challenges in the region, as well as an overview regarding the review of the regional priority areas for 2022–25. This presentation will serve as a starting point for the discussion of the future priorities for the region.

The session will have the following elements:

1.1. Welcome and objective of the meeting

Mr. Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Independent chairperson of the Council, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN Organizations for Food and Agriculture.

H.E. Jamshid Khodjaev, Chair of the Regional Conference for Europe, Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan

Ms. Iwona Krzeszewska, Chairperson of the Europe Regional Group, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Office of the Permanent Representative to FAO, WFP and IFAD

Mr. David Bencsik, Deputy State Secretary for International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary.

1.2. [FAO's new Strategic Framework and regional priority areas \(background document: IC/21/1a\)](#)

The main scope of the presentation is to provide an overview about FAO's new Strategic Framework 2022–31¹ and its linkages to the challenges in the region. Proposals for the slight revision of the regional priority areas for intervention and action in 2022–25 will be presented, as a result of an internal review process in the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in April 2021, considering FAO's new Strategic Framework, the challenges in the region, and country priorities deriving from the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). It also provides the basis for the discussions of priorities in the subsequent sessions.

[Update on the Implementation of the PWB 2020–21 \(background document: IC/21/1b\)](#)

¹ FAO's new [Strategic Framework 2022–31](#) and the [Medium Term Plan 2022–25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022–23](#) were presented at the 130st Session of the Programme Committee in March 2021 and will be submitted for approval to the FAO Conference in July 2021.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview regarding progress in the implementation of the 2020–21 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) in Europe and Central Asia, with emphasis on 2020. Highlights of achievements are presented under the Regional Initiatives, including its cross-cutting fields and the FAO COVID19 response efforts. The report builds on FAO’s Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report (MTR) 2020, which was considered by the Programme Committee in March 2021.