



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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL

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Rome, 20 – 25 November 2006

SUMMARIES OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES HELD IN 2006

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TWENTY-FOURTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA**Bamako, Mali, 30 January – 3 February 2006****Matters arising from 33rd session of the FAO Conference, Rome 19-26 November 2005 (ARC 06/5)**

The Conference:

1. Welcomed the Director General's presentation and the proposed FAO reform aimed at making the Organisation more effective and efficient, and positioning it as a Knowledge Organisation.
2. Noted that decentralization was key to the reform and emphasized the need for greater services to the region, notably through the sub-regional economic communities and groupings including: CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and AMU. Stressed the need for additional effort to recruit national professional staff.
3. Emphasised the need for African member countries to meet their financial commitment and pay their arrears owed to the FAO.
4. Called on member countries concerned to pursue a process of internal consultation to arrive at a consensus on the two countries to host the two new sub-regional offices for Eastern and Central Africa.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2004-05 with a focus on the Achievement of the World Food Summit (WFS) targets and the Millennium Development Goals (ARC/06/2)

The Conference:

5. Appreciated the report presented by Mr. Oloche Anebi Edache, Assistant-Director General and Regional Representative for Africa, on FAO activities in Africa during the biennium 2004-2005 as follow-up measures to the recommendations of the 23rd ARC, especially with regard to FAO technical assistance to member countries in the formulation and finalization of National Medium Term Investment Programmes and Bankable Investment Project Profiles in the NEPAD/CAADP framework, in the implementation of the SPFS and various other activities.
6. Commended FAO's active role in support of African agriculture and expressed its appreciation of FAO support in the mobilization of financial resources to help overcome the invasion of desert locust.
7. Commended FAO for the positive response to the avian influenza crisis and noted that it would be useful to extend the support provided to the whole continent, in collaboration with other UN agencies and development partners.
8. Noted and praised the South-South cooperation programme in addressing emergency and development issues.

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management under Globalization and Liberalization to Promote Economic Growth (ARC/06/3)For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and Research Organisations

The Conference:

9. Noted that enhanced competitiveness of agriculture (crops/livestock/forestry and fisheries) is crucial to economic growth and development in Africa, and has to be addressed by increasing production and marketing efficiency.

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and Other Partners

The Conference:

10. Noted that intra-regional trade presents challenges especially for the landlocked countries and recommended that special efforts should be made to develop infrastructure such as feeder roads, rail and water transportation to open up remote areas.

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, and FAO

The Conference:

11. Recommended that an assessment of what needs to be done to promote trade within Africa should be carried out.
12. That there is currently lack of pooling of resources in trade negotiations and recommended that FAO plays an active role in:
 - a) capacity building to strengthen skills on international trade standards in order to enhance access to markets;
 - b) analysing in which commodities member countries have competitive and comparative advantages; and
 - c) studies to develop common agricultural policies in the RECs.

For the attention of FAO, Financial Institutions and other Specialized Agencies

The Conference:

13. Noted the poor access by farmers to financial resources and the lack of strategies for resource mobilization:
 - (i) recognized the need to improve on current micro-financing strategies as well as develop strategies to facilitate Public-Private partnerships to improve investments and access to financing by farmers;
 - (ii) further recognized that intermediaries in financing are required, and
 - (iii) recommended that FAO in consultation with specialized institutions contribute to the organization of training in financing.

For the attention of Governments, Research Organisations and International Financial Institutions

The Conference:

14. Recognised the need to adapt technologies to local conditions and recommended that research should be reinforced through development of human resources with special attention given to the development of technologies that enhance rain-fed agriculture while supporting small-scale and low-cost irrigation and water harvesting technologies especially for semi-arid and drought prone areas.
15. That infrastructure development including irrigation, marketing, agro-processing, electrification etc. is a major constraint in many African countries and recognised the need for a concerted effort by government and public-private partnership to promote financing in this area.
16. Emphasised the significance of investment in research, technology development and dissemination and of developing capacity for adaptation of technology to country needs and noted that value added and processing activities are also crucial to enhancing competitiveness of agricultural products and to that end, recommended that appropriate measures to support investments in value added facilities should be put in place in the production areas.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

17. (i) Noted that structural adjustment measures leading to the privatisation of marketing and disfranchising of marketing boards have left small scale farmers without access to support services including marketing information;

- (ii) Recommended that strategies for linking farmers to markets need to be re-visited in order to improve access to these vitally important services and to facilitate the participation of farmers in the agro-industrial sector.

African Seeds and Biotechnology Programme (ARC/06/4)

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

- 18. (i) Noted that seed is one of the most crucial elements in the livelihoods of agricultural communities; and
- (ii) Requested FAO and its Member States to develop an Action Plan with clear indications of detailed activities, timeframes and allocation of responsibilities for the aggressive promotion of the use of improved seeds by farmers.

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities, African Union and Research Organisations

The Conference:

- 19. Recommended that:
 - a) institutional arrangements should be clearly defined with emphasis on reliance on African expertise;
 - b) duplication of efforts should be avoided by ensuring collaboration among the Regional and Subregional Organizations, including research and training institutions and taking into account existing programmes/initiatives at national, sub-regional and regional level;
 - c) priorities for progressive implementation, e.g. seed production starting with the main crops, be identified including forage and forestry products; policy and legal arrangements on seeds and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture be developed and capacity building on technical issues such as seed quality control, phytosanitary, varietal uniformity aspects and traceability, etc be done;
 - d) African research institutions should be encouraged to resuscitate seed research and governments to upgrade existing facilities;
 - e) activities related to the use of biotechnology for improving seeds together with the envisaged initiative for capacity building to manage genetically modified organisms should be in compliance with the relevant conventions, protocols as well as national policies and legal frameworks;
 - f) an assessment of the level of investment in seed development, production and trade including funds for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and identification of the conditions needed to increase such investments be conducted;
 - g) participants from the A.U. Member States receive a progress report on the development of the Action Plan at the next Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government to be held in July 2006 in Banjul, the Gambia; and
 - h) the budget of the Plan of Action reflect the need to place strong emphasis on capacity building and potential funding services to be clearly identified. In revising the indicative budget presented in the document, a balance should be maintained by allocating more funds for capacity building and upgrading research institutions.

Policy and Regulation of Biotechnology in Food Production (ARC/06/INF/5)

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities and Research Organisations

The Conference:

- 20. Called for national, sub-regional/regional initiatives aimed at:
 - (i) reinforcing capacities in the formulation of national regulatory frameworks;

- (ii) reinforcing human capacities of National Biosafety Committees (in terms of critical mass and level of expertise); and
 - (iii) reinforcing national and subregional capacities for the implementation of GMO diagnostic/analytical tools for informed decision-making that complies with the terms set out in existing conventions, protocols as well as national policies and legal frameworks.
21. Stressed the need to have an understanding of the benefits and risks associated with the adoption and use of biotechnology products and called upon public research institutions to be in the forefront of research on biotechnology while ensuring effective public awareness and information sharing.
 22. Suggested that all available biotechnology options (including selection by molecular marker, micro-propagation, tissue culture, cloning, embryo transfer and genetic engineering, etc.) be taken into consideration as a "*continuum*", each option being used according to its specific characteristics on a case by case basis.

Fire in the Agriculture-Forestry Interface (ARC/06/INF/6)

For the attention of FAO and Other Partners

The Conference:

23. Stressed the need to sensitize local populations and strengthen their capacity for fire prevention, control and management.
24. Recommended that FAO, in collaboration with relevant partners, pursue efforts to prepare fire control manuals and provide training and equipment to village level fire brigades.
25. Recommended the establishment of networks and working groups on fire in Sub-Saharan Africa; and urged FAO to strengthen these initiatives and to help countries make optimal use of remote sensing data for bush fire prevention and control at different levels.
26. Recommended that FAO help disseminate successful national initiatives to other member countries in the region.
27. Noted that the issue of the impacts of fire on carbon emissions and climate changes needed to be further studied and documented, and recommended that FAO and relevant partners pursue work on the issue in order to improve understanding and knowledge of both citizens and political leaders.

Agrarian Reform, Land Policies and the Millennium Development Goals: FAO's interventions and lessons learned during the Past decade (ARC/06/INF/7)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

28. Emphasized the need to reinforce access and easing land registration processes at local levels to promote security of tenure.
29. Acknowledged registration of diverse rights as pertinent to land and agrarian reform, stressing customary, collective and other diverse existing land holdings.
30. Emphasized that the sensitivities around land issues call for interactive processes, dialogue and consultation at all levels to ensure robust participation of all stakeholders and actors.
31. (i) Noted with great concern increasing land scarcity and fragmentation of holdings;
(ii) Underlined land conflict as a pertinent area for further support.
(iii) Recommended that effective existing customary practices in local contexts should be used when possible in strengthening conflict mediation processes, as well as use of local land commissions.

32. Stressed as priority area for future focus, the promotion of balanced policies in support of land consolidation, commercial agriculture and investment while also protecting land rights and production systems of smallholders.

AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

For the attention of Governments

The African Union Conference:

33. Urged Member States to implement policies and programmes that support small scale farmers and the expansion of agribusiness activities, including contract farming for smallholder farmers.
34. Adopted the following recommendations:
 - a) the adoption of the Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) System as described in the "Guidance Note" developed by the AU/NEPAD for use in Agriculture Expenditure Tracking System;
 - b) Crop, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry sectors (including Research and Development in these sectors) be the core areas for the allocation of the 10%;
 - c) use of expenditure data rather than the budget data for the tracking system;
 - d) Member States to submit, by December 31 of each year, the duly completed Agriculture Expenditure Tracking System questionnaire to the African Union Commission;
 - e) that Member States utilize sufficient budgetary resources for the global development of rural areas;
 - f) that Member States place particular emphasis on the development of national and regional infrastructure to facilitate trade of agricultural goods.

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities and African Union Commission

The African Union Conference:

35. Urged Member States and Regional Economic Groupings to develop intra and inter-regional trade in food products particularly from food surplus to deficit zones.
36. Recommended strengthening the capacity of the African Union Commission in order to improve coordination of initiatives in the area of food security at the continental and sub-regional levels.

For the attention of Governments, Donors and NEPAD

The African Union Conference:

37. Recognized the progress made by many Member States in the development of National Medium-Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs) and Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPP) within the framework of CAADP and urged Member States to accelerate implementation of CAADP by adopting the NMTIPs and BIPPs and including them in their National Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks.
38. Urged Member States to ensure funding of CAADP from domestic budgets, savings resulting from debt relief, and, where appropriate, resources mobilized from bilateral and multilateral donors.
39. Acknowledged the importance of water, land and fisheries resources for food production and income generation and urged Member States with irrigation potential to take advantage of the African Water Facility hosted by the African Development Bank and World Bank;
40. Underscored the urgent need to respond to Africa's critical problems of hunger, poverty and disease by employing innovative complementary and comprehensive approaches aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and growth; expressed concern at the duplication of efforts and non coherence in implementing the CAADP and the Sirte Declarations by the NEPAD Secretariat and AU Commission respectively.

For the attention of Governments, Regional Economic Communities and FARA

The African Union Conference:

41. Recognized the importance of agricultural research, technology dissemination and transfer and called on regional economic communities and Member States to realign their regional and national research priorities to the Framework for Africa Agricultural Productivity (FAAP) within the broader CAADP framework with the support and collaboration of FARA.

FAO-FO/NGO/CSO REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR AFRICA

For the attention of Governments

The Consultation:

42. Recommended that Governments:
 - a) safeguard the land rights of agricultural producers through appropriate instruments, including the land register, rural land use planning and the monitoring of land ownership;
 - b) elaborate and implement, through a participatory approach, land policies and legislation that focus on the security of land tenure of family holdings, on equitable access to land by all, especially the vulnerable groups (women, the young, migrants, pastoralists and disadvantaged social groups) and on the sustainable management of natural resources;
 - c) protect African agriculture and implement appropriate mechanisms for the management of supply;
 - d) establish enabling conditions for populations to consume the food and agriculture products that they produce;
 - e) honour the commitments made at the 2003 Summit of the African Union in Maputo to allocate at least 10 % of national budgets to agriculture;
 - f) implement appropriate mechanisms of financing, and support to investment for the modernization of family agricultural holdings;
 - g) adopt a moratorium of 10 years on all use, marketing and importation of GMO varieties and derived products. This delay should serve to produce appropriate legislation and to inform and train stakeholders, in particular the agricultural producers;
 - h) provide strong support to agricultural research for the development of seeds suited to the production conditions of family holdings;
 - i) support FAO reform towards enhanced dialogue with civil society; and
 - j) take into account the rights of citizens by adopting the principles of food sovereignty.

For the attention of Governments and FAO

43. Allow civil society organizations to introduce discussion items into the agenda of the Regional Conference for Africa.

For the attention of FAO

The Consultation:

44. Recommended that FAO:
 - a) contribute towards reinforcing the capacity of farmer organizations to defend their land rights through the establishment of information, training and experience-exchange programmes and through studies and research on land issues;
 - b) adopt the right to food sovereignty as a right to be defended in the framework of the guidelines on the right to food and as a principle to be observed in food security programmes;

- c) put in place an effective programme for developing a multiparty partnership against hunger, for supporting subregional and country alliances and for strengthening farmer organization and civil society capacity to defend citizens' rights to food; and
- d) put in place a more effective mechanism for partnership with civil society, notably through reinforcement of the operating capacity of the FAO/NGO/CSO unit at Headquarters, providing it with sufficient human resources and appropriate means of operation; the gradual decentralization of this unit to the subregional offices; and the creation of operational focal points in country offices and the establishment of ongoing dialogue and open partnership with civil society at the level of all country offices.

For the attention of Civil Societies and Farmers Organisations

The Consultation:

45. Recommended that Civil Societies Organisations:

- a) participate meaningfully in the shaping of land policies and legislation, by conducting independent studies and through own reflections;
- b) advocate for consideration of the rights and legitimate interests of Civil Societies and Farmers Organisations;
- c) mobilize all components of society, public and private institutions so that the fight against hunger becomes a daily concern and a citizen's act, in particular by promoting the food and agricultural products of the region and by engaging actively in the establishment and invigoration of national and subregional alliances throughout sub-Saharan Africa;
- d) mobilize internal financial resources to support actions undertaken in the framework of alliances; and
- e) pursue exchanges among African farmer organizations to reinforce their negotiating position in defining regional and subregional policies.

OTHER MATTERS

46. None was discussed.

CONCLUDING ITEMS

Items to be considered for the 25th Regional Conference for Africa

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

47. Recommended that member countries submit to the FAO Secretariat their proposed topics/selected issues of importance to the region for consideration in the Agenda of the 25th FAO Regional Conference for Africa to be held in Kenya in 2008.

TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Sana'a, Yemen 12 – 16 March 2006

General Debate and Recommendations

For the attention of Member States

48. Due to the wealth of plant and animal genetic resources in the Region, the Conference called upon Member Countries to strengthen their national documentation, registration and exchange of information and expertise among existing Gene Banks in some countries of the Region.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

49. a) Expressed its deep concerns about the grave consequences facing Palestinian agriculture and requested FAO to move from providing emergency projects to more long-term projects for the rehabilitation and development of the sector.
- b) Took note of the recent serious drought affecting some parts of Somalia and threatening the food security and livelihoods of a large number of population. The Conference requested FAO to take immediate action to provide the necessary emergency assistance to the affected population.

The Conference adopted the report of the **Senior Officers Meeting** with the following recommendations:

Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Controlling Trans-boundary Animal Diseases, with Special Reference to Avian Influenza (NERC/06/3 and Sup.1)

For the attention of Member States

50. The Meeting called upon Member States of the Region to:
- a) Continue cooperation with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to ensure that recently established and/or upgraded veterinary laboratories in some countries of the Region would be certified as regional Reference Laboratories and to ensure that all countries of the Region would benefit from the services of these Reference Laboratories.
- b) Formulate and adopt comprehensive national emergency preparedness plans for dealing with possible incursions of Avian Influenza in non-infected countries, and, in infected countries, ensure effective and diligent implementation of these plans to control and ultimately eradicate the disease.
- c) Cooperate with FAO, OIE and other concerned international and regional agencies, as well as with other countries in the Region in generating and sharing Avian Influenza disease intelligence and experience in the prevention and control of the disease.

For the attention of FAO

51. The Meeting requested FAO to:
- a) Collaborate closely with the OIE and other concerned regional organizations such as AOAD, ACSAD, ICARDA, etc. in the implementation of regional activities of the Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).
- b) Ensure that GF-TAD activities in the Region give adequate support to capacity building of technical staff and upgrading of laboratories and equipment.

- c) Provide, upon request and within available resources, technical support and advice to enhance the capacity of animal health laboratories in the Region.
- d) Coordinate the fund-raising efforts among Member Countries and possible regional and international donors to ensure the necessary funding for launching a Phase II for the Regional Animal Disease Surveillance and Control Network (RADISCON).
- e) Continue providing support, within available resources, to countries who need rehabilitation of their agricultural sectors and veterinary services following wars and natural disasters, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia and Sudan, including training in animal health and monitoring of veterinary drugs and vaccines.
- f) Coordinate and manage, in collaboration with OIE and other concerned international and regional agencies, the effort in assisting countries of the Region to control and ultimately eradicate Avian Influenza from the poultry producing sectors and to prepare non-infected countries for a rapid detection of, and response to, incursions of the disease.
- g) Organize a coordination meeting on Avian Influenza for all countries of the Region, in collaboration with OIE, WHO and other concerned organizations, to exchange information and to closely coordinate efforts for early warning, detection and control of the disease. The Meeting welcomed Jordan's kind invitation for this coordination meeting to be held in Amman, Jordan.

Adopting Drought Mitigation Strategies in the Near East Region (NERC/06/4)

For the attention of Member States

52. The Meeting called upon Member States of the region to:
- a) Enact legislation and policies for establishing relevant national enabling mechanisms for drought mitigation preparedness strategies.
 - b) Ensure that drought mitigation preparedness strategies are in harmony with national strategies for combating desertification under the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD).
 - c) Create the required institutional set-up for planning, implementing, coordinating and monitoring the national programmes for drought mitigation.
 - d) Consider the establishment, within available resources, of a drought watch and early warning system to assure timely alerts and preparedness at country level.
 - e) Establish adequate liaison with regional and international organizations for following up on drought mitigation activities at national, regional and global levels.
 - f) Accord due attention to the socio-economic dimension of drought, within the framework of comprehensive and integrated preparedness and mitigation plans, and address rehabilitation and development, including water resources, rangeland, livestock, forestry and crop production.
 - g) Focus on the water demand management approach and consider efficiency of water use as the basis for drought mitigation.
 - h) Increase investment in agricultural research to improve water use efficiency and crop production under water shortage conditions, and to develop drought and salt tolerant varieties as well as exploring the feasibility of cloud-seeding.
 - i) Support the recently established Regional Network on Drought Management for the Near East and North Africa and promote regional cooperation and exchange of experiences among Member Countries.

For the attention of FAO

53. The Meeting requested FAO to:
- a) Provide policy advice and technical assistance to Member Countries, upon request and within available resources, in formulating and developing national long-term action plans for drought mitigation;

- b) Collaborate with concerned Member Countries in developing indicators for the appropriate timing to trigger disbursements against established drought relief provisions in government budgets;
- c) Assist Member Countries in identifying potential international and regional donor agencies interested in funding drought mitigation activities, and provide technical support in the formulation of related regional, sub-regional and national projects for submission to donors' funding;
- d) Conduct a study to assess recent experiences in the utilization of cloud seeding as a potential tool for drought mitigation and lessons learned from Near East countries; and
- e) Encourage collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other concerned organizations and Member Countries, particularly in relation to climatic studies and drought forecasting, and to benefit from their technical capacity in planning and implementing capacity building activities in Member Countries.

Fisheries in the Near East Region: Situation, Constraints and Prospects (NERC/06/5)

For the Attention of Member States

54. Meeting called upon Member States to:
- a) Establish proper databases for all aspects of the fish industry.
 - b) Reduce the number of fishing vessels so as to increase catch per boat and lower unit costs.
 - c) Conduct proper and comprehensive stock assessment surveys for marine and inland fishing areas at the national or regional levels.
 - d) Formulate, implement and enforce laws and regulations to monitor and regulate fishing efforts, including registration of vessels and fishermen and record-keeping of fishing activities.
 - e) Ensure regional cooperation and sharing of information among Member Countries in dealing with the issues of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
 - f) Take corrective measures to protect fisheries from environmental degradation emanating from tourism, agriculture, industry, sewage and other polluting activities.
 - g) Conduct multi-species re-stocking programmes and construct adequate landing facilities equipped with better and more appropriate services and processing plants as well as marketing and logistical information.
 - h) Encourage the private sector to increase aquaculture activities through provision of economic and administrative incentives.
 - i) Promote studies and research aimed at increasing productivity per unit area, diversifying and introducing new species, especially those of high value, and identifying the most sustainable and practical farming options.
 - j) Process fish into value-added products that meet international quality and safety standards, including *Codex Alimentarius*, in order to have better access to lucrative exports markets in the context of global trade liberalization.
 - k) Take proper action to improve intra-regional and inter-regional trade through improving transport and storage infrastructure, improving handling practices and distribution networks, and insuring harmonization and proper enforcement of fish trade regulations;
 - l) Improve access to regional fish marketing information services such as InfoSamak, Info Fish, Info Peche and Euro-Fish.
 - m) Encourage the establishment of national, sub-regional and regional networking, and support and coordinate with other regional bodies like InfoSamak, the Arab Fish Federation, the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development and the Agricultural and Food Marketing Association for the Near East and North Africa (AFMANENA).

For the Attention of FAO

55. The Meeting requested FAO to:
- a) Provide support and technical advice for conducting stock assessment surveys and preparing fishing and aquaculture databases.
 - b) Provide support for institutional capacity building in fisheries protection and the implementation of the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*.
 - c) Assist countries to benefit from the Fish Marketing Information Services and establish national networks.
 - d) Encourage research and provide technical advice and assistance to Member Countries to help them overcome pollution and disease problems associated with aquaculture, including mariculture, through the adoption of good management practices, in collaboration with the OIE, UNEP and other specialized organizations.
 - e) Provide Member Countries with technical and legal advice to assist them in dealing with the issues of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
 - f) Further strengthen collaboration among Member Countries of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) in its areas of competence and encourage the provision of assistance to Iraq in rebuilding and rehabilitating its fisheries institutions and infrastructure.
 - g) Collaborate with Member Countries and concerned regional and international organizations to assist Somalia to protect its fisheries resources from the extensive illegal fishing activities and to provide the needed technical assistance and advice to help the country to better protect its rich fisheries resources.
 - h) Facilitate the sharing of information on successful experiences in aquaculture among the countries of the Region, with particular emphasis on Egypt's pioneering experience in this field.
 - i) Coordinate with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to ensure a speedy approval of IDB funding for the regional project on Red Sea Fisheries to complement the funding already received from other donors.
 - j) Ensure that, within the ongoing reforms at FAO, Member Countries with an important fisheries sector, would, resource permitting, have adequate technical support from FAO, including support from the Fisheries Department at FAO Headquarters as well as from the fisheries experts based in the Regional and Sub-regional offices.

OTHER MATTERS

Global and Regional Emergency Issues

56. The Meeting considered a recommendation by FAO senior management that a standing item on "*Global and Regional Emergency Issues*" be introduced on the agenda of future FAO Regional Conferences. This item would address issues relating to emergencies and their impact at the global, regional and national levels and FAO's role in dealing with such issues in support of Member Countries. The Meeting noted that the Near East Region was frequently exposed to natural disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, floods, epidemics, etc., as well as man-made disasters such as wars and armed conflicts. Given the importance of alleviating the serious negative effects of such disasters on the local populations, the Meeting endorsed the above-mentioned recommendation.

Information Notes

57. The Meeting noted that past reports of the Senior Officers' Meeting included short summaries from the technical Information Notes. Given that these Notes are distributed but not discussed by the Meeting, the Meeting recommended that the Report should only provide a list of these documents without further elaborations.

Procedures for the Participation of Observers

58. It was pointed out that Observers in the Meeting were not always familiar with the procedures governing their participation in the discussions and debates of the Meeting. The Meeting recommended that, in future sessions of the Regional Conference, the Secretariat should prepare a short note outlining the above-mentioned procedures, to be circulated to all participants.

Discussion and Debate on a Pressing Issue in the Region: “Implications of the Recent Developments in the Global and Regional Trading Environment for Food Security and Agricultural Development in the Near East” (NERC/06/INF/5)

For the Attention of Member States

59. The Conference called upon Member states to:
- a) Continue strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the units, within Ministries of Agriculture, responsible for agricultural policy analysis and trade-related issues to support the national team responsible for the WTO related negotiations, as well as to incorporate trade implications in the mainstream of agriculture.
 - b) Promote adequate measures to enhance agricultural investments and ensure financing of national agricultural development programmes.
 - c) Discuss with international and regional financing institutions the possibilities for supporting national, sub-regional and regional capacity building activities in areas related to multilateral trade negotiations, in collaboration with FAO.

For the Attention of FAO

60. The Conference requested FAO to:
- a) Consider providing capacity building support to Member Countries of the Region in multilateral trade negotiations and regional trade agreements, within available resources.
 - b) Assess, upon completion of ongoing WTO negotiations on modalities on agriculture, the potential impact of the Doha Round commitments on agricultural trade and food security in the Near East countries.
 - c) Assist countries of the Region in facilitating exchange of information and lessons learned between WTO member countries and countries considering accession to the WTO, as well as between the Mediterranean countries, which have long experience of partnership with the EU, and other countries of the region.

Proposed List of Topics to be Considered at the 29th Regional Conference for the Near East

61. The Conference formed a Committee, consisting of representatives of five Member States (Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen) plus a member of FAO Secretariat, to assist in collecting proposed topics by Member Countries and to prepare a list of topics for consideration by the Conference. The Conference reviewed the various topics compiled by the Committee and requested the Secretariat to submit the approved condensed list of topics (shown below) to FAO/HQ for consideration and possible inclusion in the Conference Agenda for the 29th Regional Conference for the Near East:
- a) Strategic framework for sustainable agricultural development and food security in the Near East: programmes, emerging policy issues and future prospects.
 - b) Agricultural investment in the Near East: current situation, constraints and future prospects;
 - c) Recent developments in world trade environment and implications of sustainable agricultural development and food security in the region.
 - d) Groundwater management and governance in the Near East: experience and lessons learned;
 - e) Ensuring food safety in the Near East: challenges and opportunities.

- f) Aquaculture: a review of successful pilot experiences in some Near East countries;
- g) Strengthening and reform of National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems: Global trends and regional developments;
- h) Rangeland management, monitoring and evaluation for combating desertification and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- i) Socio-economic impacts of transboundary animal diseases in the Near East
- j) Post harvest losses in the Near East: challenges and food security implications;
- k) Integrated utilization of agricultural residues: contribution to small scale agro-industries and sustainable agricultural development in the region;
- l) Agricultural Knowledge and Information Management Systems in the Near East: Recent Experiences and Lessons Learned.

Date and Place of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

62. The Conference welcomed the invitation extended by the Governments of Egypt, Libya, Pakistan and Turkey to host the Twenty-ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. Other governments have indicated their interest to present their country as a host to NERC-29 as well. The Conference requested that the Director-General of FAO takes all submissions into consideration when deciding on the date and place of the coming Conference, in consultation with Member Governments of the Region.

**TWENTY-NINTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Caracas, Venezuela, 24 – 28 April 2006

Matters arising from the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference (LARC/06/4)

FAO reform. Part I: The Director-General's revised proposals. Part II: A vision for the twenty-first century (RC/2006/1)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

63. Urged the countries of the Region to place food security and rural development foremost among their national and regional priorities.
64. Recalled the need for the countries of the Region to accompany and support the FAO reform process.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

65. Indicated that budgetary restrictions and the scale of existing challenges required a broad reform of working methods, administrative structures and rules governing the distribution of the Organization's tasks.
66. Reiterated the need for the process to continue being transparent, inclusive and participatory. To this end, it considered it important for the contents and time frame of the reform to be agreed by consensus.
67. Indicated that it was important to consider the Independent External Evaluation, given that the Reform and the Independent External Evaluation were two parallel processes that needed to be mutually supportive.
68. Stressed the need to strengthen the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. It also recognized the importance of creating new Subregional Offices, giving priority to the creation of the Office for Central America.

Report on FAO activities (2004-2005) with a focus on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and action taken on the recommendations of the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC/O6/INF/5)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

69. Recognized the importance of strengthening initiatives to improve productivity and to increase rural employment and income in order to contribute towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1: "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger".

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

70. Established seven priority lines of action for FAO technical cooperation in the Region in the 2006-2007 biennium: the "Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025" initiative; subregional multidisciplinary groups, including the Amazon Basin; expansion of the Special Programmes for Food Security in the countries of the Region; immediate actions for those suffering hunger, especially South-South cooperation and short-term attention to Haiti; transboundary diseases, especially protection against highly pathogenic avian influenza and control of foot-and-mouth disease; food safety,

including the harmonization of standards, biosecurity – considering, inter alia, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and labelling requirements; interagency cooperation and information management.

Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025: Inputs for a framework of action

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

71. Decided to endorse the “Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025” initiative.
72. Reiterated that the initial step to implement the initiative was for all the countries to sign an undertaking that by 2025 no country would have an undernourished population of more than five percent of its total population.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

73. Recommended that FAO under the guidance and coordination of its Regional Office in Santiago promote the necessary human and financial resources, including through the contribution of third party countries and other international agencies, for the full realization of the “Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025” initiative.
74. Recommended that FAO through its Regional Office in Santiago provide technical support to mechanisms of implementation of the “Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025” initiative.
75. Indicated the need for the Regional Office in Santiago to have a Food Security Officer and an appropriate support team for technical cooperation activities relating to implementation of the “Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025” initiative.

Strengthening regional capacity for the prevention and control of avian influenza in Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC/06/INF/7)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

76. Recognized the nature and level of risk that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 could affect the Region.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

77. Recommended that FAO, in coordination with PAHO, WHO and the OIE, to promote and support activities of exchange and cooperation between the countries of the Region for implementation of protection measures against the risk of avian flu.
78. Requested that FAO support cooperation between the laboratory networks of the countries of the Region.
79. Suggested that FAO provide technical cooperation so that the intellectual property of drugs and reagents did not constitute an obstacle to the treatment of a pandemic.

Reports of the regional commissions: Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC); Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL); Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) (LARC/06/INF/8-10)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

80. Indicated the importance of policies for the management of marine and river fishery resources to ensure their sustainable use and optimize their production.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

81. Recommended that FAO promote and technically support the exchange of experiences between countries and the possibilities of partnerships on the subject of bioenergy as a priority focus of cooperation.
82. Requested that FAO, in cooperation with the countries of the Region, promote and technically support the conduct of studies to monitor fishery resources and, in general, to improve the quality of fishery information.
83. Recommended that FAO provide technical support for training in the trade and handling of fishery products and for education in the consumption of these products to ensure their quality and safety.
84. Called for studies on linkages between fishing and nutrition and on a strategy to improve the living conditions of artisanal fishers.
85. Requested that FAO support the exchange of experiences between countries on the subject of reforestation, in particular productive reforestation with the use of fruit trees.

Round Table “Towards a regional agricultural common market: problems and perspectives” (LARC/06/INF/11)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

86. Recognized that the process of agricultural integration meant addressing the asymmetries in the levels of development of countries, the harmonization of trade and agricultural regulations; coherence in food safety and quality systems and standards; and compatibility in the multiplicity of agreements.
87. Supported the position of Haiti under the perception that solidarity was also be expressed in the search for better terms for that country’s exports.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

88. Requested that FAO focus its technical support on the process of integration of agricultural trade, in particular on the negotiation of sanitary aspects, and on training for customs control protection against transboundary pests and diseases.
89. Suggested that FAO support exchanges of experiences and cooperation between the countries of the Region for the more efficient and equitable incorporation of family farming into commercial networks, as a way of improving food and nutrition security and social inclusion.

Round Table “Institutional challenges for national, subregional and regional technological innovation” (LARC/06/INF/12)For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

90. Indicated the need to acknowledge that there was no direct, simple relationship between productivity and food and nutrition security, which was in fact a complex socio-economic process that required both greater participation of the private sector and a strong presence of the State.
91. Valued the contribution of technology research centres, beyond the adoption of technologies generated in developed countries, and recognized the efforts that the Region had made in the field of extension.
92. Indicated that analysis of the process of technological innovation needed to address biotechnology issues in consideration of environmental sustainability.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

93. Recommended revising and amending the background documented presented to better reflect the complexity of the subject and to refine analysis of the system of technological innovation in the specific conditions of the Region.

Territorial policies for the economic and social development of rural areas (LARC/06/02)For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

94. Emphasized the need to examine the relationship between economic growth and development, and to avoid oversimplification as agricultural growth had often not translated into significant improvement in living conditions and opportunities for the rural population.
95. Recognized the important role played by the State and decentralized government bodies in defining and implementing territorial policies, and reaffirmed the need for these policies to be broadly democratic and participatory, involving the various agents of civil society, articulating the public and private sectors and with interinstitutional coordination in the specific territorial context.
96. Noted that rural development incorporated all production activities in the rural environment in a territorial-based approach; it also covered linkages with market distribution channels and the incorporation of production chains; and it should also include living conditions, security, housing and access to services.
97. Stressed the need for rural development policies to evolve from a traditional assistance-oriented approach to a structural concept that favoured a new political, social and economic dynamic in rural areas, creating opportunities of access to assets and market openings, thereby generating income combined with social inclusion.
98. Stated the need to promote mechanisms of solidarity and integration in the Region, emphasizing the particular case of the Republic of Haiti to help the efforts of the Haitian people to further their development.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

99. Recommended that FAO continue to look more deeply and broadly into this subject and requested that the studies currently being conducted with FAO support in three countries (Brazil, Chile and Mexico) be extended to other countries of the Region, including in particular the specific characteristics of the Caribbean islands.

Food safety and animal and plant health. Trends and challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

100. Reiterated the commitment of the countries of the Region to the health of their populations and to their participation in international markets, within a trading environment that ensured the safety and quality of food.
101. Stressed the relevance of food safety and animal and plant health for the countries of the Region, given that the rapid increase in movement of people and goods broadened the possibilities of progress but also the risks of spread of pests and diseases and urged that such risks be addressed collectively through mechanisms of cooperation and shared procedures.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

102. Supported the request of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) that the criteria for the distribution of funds be modified and that the equitable distribution of those funds be ensured, as under current arrangements only one country of the Region could receive assistance for participation in three meetings of the Codex; the remaining would only receive funding for one meeting.
103. Indicated that FAO's training activities should be coupled with the possibility of modernizing existing administrative and control structures in individual countries, within integrated programmes funded by various institutions that support FAO cooperation.
104. Expressed its interest in having FAO coordinate training activities with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the "Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)" and the "Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)".

Trends and challenges in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC/06/INF/6)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

105. Emphasized the need for a broad approach that situated agricultural and rural development within the processes of global development and a changing international context. It also noted the importance of balancing this approach with the addition of an orientation of agricultural and rural development in the countries of the Region towards the achievement of food security from the internal perspective of the rural world, safeguarding the ways of life of its population and its relationship with the environment.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

106. Requested that analyses of agricultural trends and challenges included a baseline analysis of agricultural products that could be traded in a context of environmental sustainability and sanitary control, as the basis for greater economic growth.
107. Suggested including, in the identified challenges, the implementation of development policies that favoured social inclusion, particularly of marginalized groups such as peasant farmers, artisanal fishers and rural fish farmers.
108. Recommended more in-depth study of the trends and challenges in agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, within an optic of development with equity to ensure a better distribution of the benefits of economic progress.

Report on the outcome of the International Conference on Agrarian reform and Rural Development

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

109. Endorsed the recommendations included in the Final Declaration of the International Conference on agrarian reform and Rural Development.
110. Welcomed the proposals to promote the holding of subregional seminars and discussions panels, organized by country groups, with the broad participation of social movements
111. Declared that institutional frameworks for land tenure and use were fundamental for agricultural and rural development.
112. Recognized that land redistribution needed to be accompanied by support measures, including technology transfer, credit and finance, systems of innovation and management, and other mechanisms to facilitate the modernization of farmers' production processes and their integration into trade channels.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

113. Recommended that the relevant FAO bodies took the necessary actions to implement the recommendations included in the Final Declaration of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.
114. Indicated that it was fundamental for the Region to be able to follow up on ICARRD in the Committee on World Food Security and the FAO Council, including the possible formulation of Voluntary Guidelines for the National Implementation of the Right to Land.
115. Requested that FAO, through the Technical Secretariat of ICARRD and under the coordination of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, convene and conduct seminars and panel discussions, organized by groups of countries and with broad participation of social movements, to lay the groundwork for a Plan of Action that would help resolve, on a voluntary basis, the more urgent problems identified by ICARRD.
116. Requested that the Technical Secretariat of ICARRD in FAO, under the coordination of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, prepare a document to be submitted for discussion and adoption at the 131st Session of the FAO Council in November, 2006, to support the organization of subregional seminars in order to generate inputs for the preparation and future implementation of an ICARRD Plan of Action.
117. Recommended that FAO, through its appropriate units (in particular the Field Programme Development Service – TCAP), draft a proposal, for instance a Special Programme for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to ensure the necessary support for implementation of the follow-up activities to ICARRD.

TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**Jakarta, Indonesia, 15 – 19 May 2006****Matters Arising from the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference (APRC/06/6)**For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

118. Stressed that FAO had a unique role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and reiterated its strong support to the reform of FAO to make the Organization a more efficient and effective knowledge organization to lead the world and assist member countries in fighting hunger and ensuring sustainable agricultural development.
119. Supported proposals for streamlining FAO's financial and administrative procedures, including consolidating many of them, as appropriate.
120. Many delegates emphasized that further reforms, beyond those approved by the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, should be initiated only after careful assessment of the initial reforms and further consultation with member countries, taking into account the findings of the IEE and the ongoing wider United Nations reforms, including the High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence. While there was a view that further reform should be implemented after careful assessment of the initial reforms and the conclusion of the IEE, some member countries urged the Director-General to implement the reform expeditiously.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

121. Urged the active involvement of member countries in the IEE.
122. Encouraged member countries to contribute to the IEE Multilateral Trust Fund, to the extent possible, in order to enhance ownership of the evaluation.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

123. Urged FAO to further identify and focus on areas of highest priority and those for which FAO has a comparative advantage within the United Nations system, and to seek voluntary contributions from member countries to support the implementation of the reform.

General Debate on Food and Agriculture Situation in the RegionFor the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

124. Called on all member countries, working in close cooperation with international organizations, to urgently translate political commitment for achieving the targets of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals into concrete programmes and actions, and to increase resources to ensure food security for all.
125. Requested FAO, other international organizations and donors to provide targeted support to address the challenges of Small Island Developing States through early warning systems, disaster preparedness and management, appropriate agricultural production systems, value-added processing, marketing and policy support.
126. Urged support for the second phase of the South Pacific Regional Programme for Food Security.

127. Requested FAO and other international organizations to increase support for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through effective monitoring, control and surveillance practices, and the establishment of related strong governance.
128. Urged FAO, in collaboration with other international and regional organizations, to increase efforts to build capacity for sustainable forest management and combating deforestation and forest degradation.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

129. Urged all countries to demonstrate flexibility and commitment in advancing multilateral agricultural trade negotiations.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

130. Requested FAO to continue providing advice and capacity building for multilateral and bilateral agricultural trade negotiations.
131. Requested FAO to support member countries in their efforts to develop practical and cost-competitive bioenergy sectors.
132. Encouraged FAO to further strengthen mechanisms for the exchange of technical knowledge and experience and the implementation of technical programmes through South-South Cooperation, Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), regional networking, and partnerships and alliances among stakeholders.
133. Requested FAO to continue its support for the formulation and implementation of codes and guidelines for responsible forest practices.
134. Requested FAO to continue its facilitating role as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Adjustment and Restructuring in Major Asian Economies and their Implications on Food Security and Poverty in the Rest of the Region (APRC/06/2)

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

135. Acknowledged that agriculture remains a very important sector in most developing countries and agreed that continued vigorous attention to the agricultural sector by governments and international organizations was warranted, particularly in those countries that are currently lagging in their performance; it recognized the need to facilitate efficient and timely restructuring of the agricultural sector.
136. Recommended increased bilateral and regional cooperation, and enhanced collaboration with international research centres, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, technologies, skills and genetic resources, including those of coconut trees and pandanas.
137. Urged member countries and FAO to assist farmers and fisherfolk, particularly small producers, by providing suitable technologies for alternative crops and enterprises, credit and marketing support, improved irrigation services and risk mitigation measures.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

138. Recommended that all countries in the region accord due priority to agriculture and rural development, including fisheries and forestry, in their economic development frameworks and boost resource allocations to these sectors, as appropriate.
139. Urged member countries to undertake policy studies on changing food demand, trade and marketing patterns and the roles of government, with a view of developing appropriate strategies and technologies for assisting farmers and consumers.

140. Urged member countries to carefully review policies, practices and institutional arrangements to ensure efficient and sustainable conservation and use of forests, land, water and other natural resources, including plant and animal genetic resources, needed to sustain agricultural productivity.
141. Recommended that member countries strengthen agricultural research and development, to increase productivity and market competitiveness of farmers, especially in disadvantaged areas and indigenous communities.
142. Urged countries to create conducive policies and favourable conditions for private sector investment in agriculture.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

143. Suggested that FAO expand its diagnostic study on the implications of rapid economic growth for agriculture and food security to include additional countries, and the likely implications of further economic development and anticipated restructuring of the agricultural sector.
144. Requested FAO, in the context of the Regional Strategic Framework, to continue assisting member countries in formulating pro-poor policies and strategies to enhance the competitiveness of the agricultural sectors and their contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
145. Requested FAO to continue facilitating the South-South Cooperation and other technology exchange initiatives beneficial to the rural poor.
146. Recommended that FAO continue building the capacity of member countries to enable them to deal effectively with the rapid changes in agriculture, resulting from continued economic development and technological advances.
147. Urged FAO to be strategic in the use of its limited resources for addressing priority areas, to maximize impact in developing countries, and to avoid activities that might be better carried out by countries themselves, other organizations, or the private sector.
148. Requested FAO to give particular attention to the special needs of Small Island Developing States, land-locked countries, post-conflict areas and others facing special challenges in capturing the benefits of rapid economic growth and trade liberalization.
149. Recommended that FAO assist member countries in developing and enhancing diversification, value-added processing, food product innovation, agro industries and marketing.
150. Requested FAO to continue assisting countries in enhancing their capacities to meet international food quality and sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards to facilitate trade and safeguard plant, animal and human health, and assist in establishing and maintaining appropriate regulations, monitoring and surveillance to ensure food quality and safety.

Reducing Vulnerability to Natural Disasters and Promoting a Livelihood Approach for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (APRC/06/3)

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

151. Urged greater commitment and resources to effectively develop and implement policies, action plans and strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.
152. Recognized the importance of building a resilient rural society through the adoption of good agricultural practices and sustainable rural development, and encouraged member countries and FAO to support a livelihood approach in all phases of disaster management.
153. Urged member countries and donor organizations to be proactive by investing more in preparing for future disasters, rather than simply responding with assistance after disasters had occurred.

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

154. Urged member countries to develop multi-hazard early warning systems to identify impending hazards and allow sufficient time for mitigation.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

155. Recommended that FAO take a lead role when disasters impact heavily on the agricultural sector and assume a supporting role when disasters impact more on other sectors.
156. Urged FAO to collaborate closely with all relevant partners at local, national, regional and international levels.
157. Urged FAO to continue its support activities related to tsunami rehabilitation and avian influenza, and to be well prepared to assist in the relief and rehabilitation efforts of future disasters.
158. Requested FAO to enhance its support for integrated watershed management, integrated coastal area management, codes of conduct for sustainable forest and fisheries management and good agricultural practices.
159. Requested FAO to provide technical assistance to support the implementation of disaster reduction plans, including actions involving improved food reserves and practical insurance schemes, with particular attention to the special needs of vulnerable Small Island Developing States.
160. Recommended that FAO become more actively engaged in all activities of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as outlined in the Hyogo Framework.
161. Encouraged FAO to allocate increased expertise and financial resources in giving higher priority to reducing vulnerability to natural disasters in member countries.

Regional State of Food and Agriculture (APRC/06/INF/5)For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

162. Acknowledged the benefits of increasing trade of agricultural products, but noted the need to strengthen national capacities for analyzing trade issues, enhance the competitiveness of small producers in terms of price and quality of products, and improve safety nets against hunger for the most vulnerable.
163. Urged renewed attention by FAO and member countries to enhancing productivity and securing access to food.

Pesticide Management and Its Relationship to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Conventions (APRC/06/INF/6)For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

164. Recommended that member countries ratify and implement the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions, and commit to adhering to the Code of Conduct to maximize the synergies from a comprehensive life-cycle approach to the management of pesticides.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

165. Requested FAO and other international organizations to provide support to member countries in building capacity for safe and appropriate handling and use of pesticides.

166. Requested FAO to enhance coordination with other international organizations to harmonize the classification of hazardous chemicals and to promote consistent and efficient approaches for pesticide management.

Recent Developments in FAO's Programme on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADS) (APRC/06/INF/7)

For the attention of Governments and FAO

The Conference:

167. Requested FAO and other international organizations to support countries with limited technical capacity in addressing highly pathogenic avian influenza by developing and implementing effective national disease control strategies and regional mechanisms for cooperation, networking and information sharing.
168. Requested donors to enhance their funding support, and FAO and other international organizations to provide continued technical support, for dealing with transboundary animal diseases.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

169. Requested FAO to explore the potential for widespread application of innovative technologies for animal identification used to effectively track animals and products.

Bioenergy: A Development of Option for Agriculture and Forestry in Asia and the Pacific (APRC/06/INF/8)

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

170. Requested FAO to continue monitoring emerging issues related to bioenergy development, including the potential opportunities and challenges for agriculture and rural development, and to facilitate the sharing of information and experiences among member countries.
171. Urged FAO to conduct studies and advise on the financial and economic viability of bioenergy development and the possible impacts on the prices and availability of food as a result of expanding bioenergy production.

Post-Session Technical Presentation on Avian Influenza

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

172. Recommended that countries develop and implement effective community-based surveillance systems that detect and report both poultry and human cases of avian influenza.
173. Encouraged countries to design "multi-hazard" surveillance and response systems covering a variety of potential emerging infectious diseases – not only avian influenza – as a way of ensuring sustainability and cost effectiveness.

TWENTY-FIFTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Riga, Latvia, 8 - 9 June 2006

Contribution of rural development in meeting the World Food Summit (WFS)/Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Region (ERC/06/3)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

174. Agreed that rural development had an essential role to play for the members of the Region that were still in a process of transition with regard to their rural economies.
175. Stressed that rural development in these countries should be based on a coherent and holistic strategy, within which concerns such as social justice and sustainable management of natural resources would be integrated.
176. Suggested that the exchange of experience related to fostering rural development through the cultivation of traditional food products as well as through the preservation of national and cultural heritage could be beneficial.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

177. Noted that FAO activities were of paramount importance in assisting Member Nations in the Region in meeting the challenges of achieving the WFS target and the MDGs.
178. Noted that the role of FAO in this area was as relevant in Europe as in other regions of the world.

The view of the European Region on the role of FAO as provider of global public goods (GPGs) (ERC/06/4)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

179. Generally agreed that areas such as livestock transboundary disease control, food safety and guidance on land and water management to preserve the environment, constituted global public goods (GPGs).
180. Stressed that more work was needed to ensure that the concept could be made fully operational to guide FAO in planning its regional activities.
181. Emphasized the unique role of FAO in the provision of truly global public goods, particularly in the fight against world poverty and hunger, including the pioneering work on the voluntary guidelines on the right to adequate food.
182. Welcomed FAO's active efforts to link with other relevant international bodies in providing global public goods to its Member Nations of the European Region.
183. Stressed that in order to effectively provide GPGs, further collective action among governments would be necessary, and that it was important to find proper tools to foster cooperation as most decisions were taken independently by sovereign nations.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

184. Indicated that FAO should further examine its regional programmes on the basis of work carried out on international negotiations, including those on trade, keeping in mind its own mandate and its comparative advantage, and to present an analysis to the next Regional Conference for Europe in order to enable a decision on priorities in this field.

185. Stressed that FAO should help build common perceptions among governments through awareness raising and provide space for collective information gathering, analysis, discussion and negotiations.
186. Felt that FAO played a unique and indispensable role in the domain of protection of consumers and of the environment.
187. Saw the normative work of FAO in plant and animal diseases as fundamental.
188. Viewed with concern any reduction in the critical mass of expertise available to the Region to monitor and guide responses.
189. Welcomed the suggestion contained in the document that FAO take a longer term perspective on evolutions in rural areas.
190. Emphasized that the reform process of FAO and the ongoing Independent External Evaluation (IEE) should be mutually supportive and the Director-General's reform should not pre-empt the IEE conclusions.
191. Stressed that an evaluation of the GPGs provided by FAO for the Region was needed, together with an analysis of the costs and benefits.

Strengthening Regional Cooperation and assisting countries in controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe, including CIS countries (ERC/06/5)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

192. Agreed that HPAI could not be tackled only at the national level, but needed to be addressed through an effective cooperation at the international level.
193. Welcomed the establishment of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) within the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD) to coordinate the emergency response to Avian Influenza.
194. Stressed that actions at the international and national levels remain essential elements of the ongoing global efforts to prevent the spread of HPAI worldwide.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

195. Requested to receive further information on the follow-up to the Regional Meeting on Avian Influenza held in Ankara (Turkey, April 2006) and on the International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, held in Rome in May 2006.
196. Underlined that the work of FAO and OIE in strengthening veterinary services must be supported and coordinated with WHO in order to increase pandemic preparedness in developing countries.

Matters arising from the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference (ERC/06/6)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

197. Confirmed its support to the Conference Resolution (6/2005) of 26 November 2005.
198. Stressed that a substantive discussion would not be possible until a detailed and complete proposal as to how the Director-General would like to implement the reform had been presented.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

199. Urged that the proposal as outlined in the Conference Resolution 6/2005, paras. 5 and 6, which should be reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committee Sessions in September 2006, in the presence of silent observers, include details of steps already taken, the relevant financial implications and their effects on the level of resources.

200. Stressed that further reform measures, including decentralization, should neither anticipate nor prejudge the ongoing IEE process and its results, and that the IEE should provide the basis for any future structural reform proposal, taking the UN system-wide reform into consideration.
201. Highlighted that according to its mandate, FAO had to fulfil normative and operational tasks, and adequate funding from the Regular Programme should be allocated to the normative activities.
202. Expressed concern regarding the reduction of professional posts at Headquarters, as the critical mass of the Organization might be weakened.
203. Expressed concern about the adequate allocation of human and financial resources to the Regional and Sub-regional Office in the European Region in order to fulfil their mandate.
204. Took note of the offer by the delegation of Kazakhstan to host the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia in Astana, supported by the delegations of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and of the statement that such an office should be located in one of the CIS countries of Central Asia in order to bring the technical capacity of FAO closer to this region.
205. Took note of Turkey's readiness to host the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia in Turkey which was supported by the delegation of Azerbaijan.

Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2004-05 (ERC/06/2)

For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

206. Took note that the priorities, identified within the Strategic Framework 2000-2015, endorsed at the Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Europe in 2000 and reiterated by the subsequent Conferences in 2002 and 2004, took into consideration both agricultural policies in the enlarged EU and its acceding countries, as well as the special needs of the countries of the Balkans and the CIS.

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

207. Highlighted the importance of livestock activities in the period 2004-05 and the emergency assistance for the early detection and prevention of HPAI.
208. Expressed appreciation of the FAO/WHO initiatives and stressed the importance of the training provided related to issues of food safety, risk assessment and Codex Alimentarius.
209. Stressed that land tenure, land consolidation and land management were issues of importance for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
210. Acknowledged the important support provided by FAO in the area of fisheries.
211. Took note of the work undertaken in the forestry sector and of the close collaboration with other UN organizations and NGOs/CSOs in undertaking these activities.
212. Welcomed the important work of FAO in supporting Member Nations' development efforts through policy assistance and field operations.
213. Welcomed the support provided for the development of rural investments in the agricultural and rural sectors.
214. Expressed concern that in some areas adequate technical assistance could no longer be provided by either the Regional or Sub-regional offices .
215. Further noted that newly emerging issues, e.g. organic farming, biotechnology and biosafety could not be addressed due to the lack of capacity resulting from the severe budgetary constraints faced by FAO.
216. Requested FAO to reconsider the recent and planned abolition of a number of posts in the Regional and Sub-regional Offices, as this could impede FAO from meeting the challenges in the Region.

Date, Place and Main Theme(s) of the Twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for EuropeFor the attention of Governments

The Conference:

217. Welcomed the renewed offer extended by the Delegation of Austria to host the next (26th) Regional Conference in 2008, and also welcomed the offer extended by the Delegation of Armenia to host the 27th Conference in 2010.

218. Noted that the agenda of future Conferences would include a standing item on “Global and Regional Emergency Issues” which would address issues relating to emergencies and their impact at global and regional levels and FAO’s role in dealing with such matters in support of Member Nations.