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CONFERENCE

Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

Report of the Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America (Ottawa, Canada, 21-22 March 2016)

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The fourth Informal North American Regional Conference (iNARC) was held in Ottawa, Canada, on March 21-22, 2016.

2. Representatives from the two countries in the FAO's North American Region, Canada and the United States of America, participated in the Conference. Also in attendance was Mr. Ajay Markanday, the Director for the FAO's Liaison Office for North America. Senior FAO officials also participated in various segments of the Conference via videoconference.

3. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Frédéric Seppey, Chief Agriculture Negotiator at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Mr. Jonathan Cordone, Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, United States Department of Agriculture.

Opening Remarks from Canadian, American Co-Chairs

4. Mr. Seppey opened the meeting by speaking to the value – added of the iNARC for the region, and also for the Organization. He stressed how the iNARC provides for a frank, open dialogue among the participants. Moreover, Mr. Seppey identified that the main focus of the iNARC is on the FAO's work *at the global level*. This focus enables the North American region to provide guidance and insights to inform the Secretariat and other member states.

5. Co-chair Mr. Cordone shared opening remarks on behalf of the United States. He spoke on the importance of ensuring a safe, abundant, affordable, nutritious, and sustainable food supply. Mr. Cordone highlighted numerous areas that we should strengthen and support, including combatting animal diseases and pests that can be a threat to human health; encouraging data collection and research; promoting trade liberalization; capacity building; supporting international organizations such as CODEX and the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committees, IPPC, and OIE; embracing new technologies and innovation; and, being good stewards of our environment.

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The Conference adopted the meeting's agenda, which is attached to this report as Annex A.

II. North American Priorities and the FAO's Strategic Objectives

Report of FAO's work to support North American priorities

7. Mr. Daniel Gustafson, FAO Deputy Director-General, Operations, and Mr. Boyd Haight, Director of the FAO Office of Strategy, Planning Resources Management, presented an update on FAO's implementation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). In particular they spoke to how the North American Regional Priorities that were identified in at the 2014 iNARC were reflected in the FAO's Strategic Objectives in the PWBs for 2014-15 and 2016-17, and the results achieved in 2014-15.

8. The Conference appreciated the work of FAO thus far to address North American priorities within the context of the PWBs 2014-15 and 2016-17, acknowledging that at only three months into the current PWB, the North America region looks forward to additional activities addressing the region's priorities over the course of the entire biennium. The Conference noted that priorities for its region are global in nature, and stressed that it would like to see additional FAO emphasis on work that addressed North American priorities related to climate smart agriculture and nutrition sensitive agriculture; linking small farmers into agricultural trade networks; the impact of fishing agreements on small-scale fisheries; sustainable forest management/forestry governance; and, mainstreaming gender equality in all areas of work at all levels as per the FAO Policy on Gender Equality.

North American priorities for the FAO

9. The Conference expressed strong appreciation for FAO's normative work and activities related to standards, guidelines, and practices. It encouraged the Organization to increase its efforts in regulatory capacity building. In addition, the Conference requested that FAO continue to provide impartial, evidence-based information to help small farmers increase productivity and production in a sustainable manner, including through the use of biotechnologies; and, that it work to develop partnerships with other UN agencies, civil society, and the private sector when implementing North American priorities.

10. Stressing the importance of developing a baseline for performance measures, North America appreciated that FAO will not significantly change its current Strategic Framework, and looks forward to FAO further aligning the Strategic Objective indicators to those of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, the Conference appreciated FAO's activities in protecting livelihoods during national and regional crises.

11. The Conference stressed that the priorities expressed in the reports of the Regional Conferences, including from the informal Regional Conference for North America, must be taken into account when preparing and implementing the PWB for future biennia, and requested that the FAO prepare a similar report on the progress of implementation of North American Regional priorities, as articulated in Appendix B, to be received in advance of the fifth FAO informal Regional Conference for North America in 2018.

III. Trade and Food Security

Report of the State of Commodity Markets 2015-16

12. Mr. Jamie Morrison, Strategic Programme Leader, Food Systems Programme, and Ms. Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist, Trade and Markets Division of FAO, presented their findings on the recent report *State of Commodity Markets 2015-16,* and how the FAO is integrating agri-food trade in its work. Mr. Morrison and Ms. Krivonos also spoke about the relationship of FAO and the WTO

and the work the two organizations are committed to do together on food safety and on resolving trade related issues.

13. The Conference appreciated the FAO's greater focus on trade in its research and requested that the Organization increase its work on the relationship between trade and food security. The Conference also emphasized the importance of linking trade to all agricultural sectors, including fisheries.

Robust agri-food trading system needed

14. Ms. Margaret Walsh, U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Change Program Office, delivered a video presentation on the report Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System. Ms. Walsh observed that climate change will have many impacts, including increased climatic variability. She further remarked that this increasing climatic variability will likely affect food security, magnify risks especially in tropical areas, and have impact beyond the farm gate within distribution channels and markets. She concluded that with more knowledge about climatic variability and consideration of different possible future scenarios there could be greater potential for adaptation across the food system and multiple food security intervention points to mitigate impacts.

15. The Conference appreciated Ms. Walsh's presentation and the focus on Climate Change and the link to trade and food security. North America agreed that with variability in agriculture production, a strong and robust trading system is vital.

IV. The FAO's Liaison Office for North America

Presentation by the Director of the Liaison Office

16. Mr. Ajay Markanday, Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America in Washington DC, presented his strategy on the work of the FAO Liaison Office.

17. The representatives took note of Mr. Markanday's presentation, and the Conference recognized the broad scope of work outlined in his remarks. The Conference encouraged the activities of the Liaison Office be prioritized and requested that the FAO Liaison Office produce a clear work plan with specific goals for how its work can support the region's interests.

V. The FAO's Work on Agenda 2030, and Climate Change

Presentations by FAO officials

18. Mr. Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General a.i. of the FAO Economic and Social Development Department, presented on the role of FAO in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted that FAO can contribute to monitoring 25 indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including under SDG 2 (no hunger), SDG 5 (women's access to land and productive resources), SDG 6 (water stress and water efficiency in agriculture), SDG 12 (food losses and waste), SDG 14 (sustainable management and use of marine resources), and SDG 15 (sustainable management of land and forests). He noted that a multi-sectoral approach and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including at country-level, will be important for implementation of the SDGs, including data collection.

19. Dr. Martin Frick, Director of the Climate and Environment Division at FAO, presented on the role of the FAO and climate change. He spoke to the 2015 Climate Change Conference (COP 21), its outcomes (the Paris Agreement) and the Green Climate Fund. He noted the inclusion of food security and agriculture, including climate-smart agriculture, in a vast majority of the INDCs, and in the need to support countries' needs and requests with solid projects. He also discussed the recent addition by the FAO (agreed in December 2015 at the 153rd FAO Council Session) to include Climate Change as a cross cutting theme across all of FAO's Strategic Objectives.

North American deliberations: supporting SDGs, climate change

20. The Conference appreciated the work of the FAO in identifying and mapping the Organization's Strategic Objectives to the Sustainable Development Goals. The North American region noted that the flexible and multi-sectoral nature of the Strategic Framework allows it to incorporate the SDGs without significantly changing its architecture, and the Conference looks forward to the FAO further aligning the Strategic Objective indicators to those of the 2030 Agenda in the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

21. The Conference appreciated the work of the FAO on climate change. The North American region looks forward to the FAO fully integrating climate change across its Strategic Framework and completing its Climate Change Strategy given the important nexus between the agriculture sector and climate change, and the COP 22 where agriculture will feature on the agenda.

22. The North American region stressed the importance of FAO avoiding duplication across the UN System, in particular with the Rome-Based Agencies and the Committee on World Food Security, and with other international organizations, and instead to build effective partnerships in support of policy coherence on the SDGs and the international commitments on Climate Change, focusing on its added-value.

VI. The FAO's Symposium on Biotechnology

The Symposium's design and results

23. The Conference considered the FAO's International Symposium on *The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition*, which took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome, February 15-17, 2016. Mr. Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director-General and Mr. Chikelu Mba from the FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division presented an overview of the FAO's work to develop and host the Symposium. They stressed the steps the Organization had taken to ensure an impartial dialogue, based on science and evidence, on the considerations of biotechnology for farmers and foresters around the world. They expressed their appreciation for the work of the Advisory Panel of internationally recognized experts and stakeholders, for the Symposium's keynote speakers, and for the side event sessions.

24. Mr. Gustafson also stressed the importance of the FAO working more closely with countries to inform them of the facts concerning biotechnology. In this regard, FAO welcomed financial support from the Members.

25. Ms. Veronica McGuire, Executive Director of the Programs, Regulatory and Trade Policy unit of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency reported Canadian views on the Symposium. She also reported on the very successful side event that the North American region hosted at the Symposium entitled *Practical Approaches to Regulation and Oversight of Agricultural Biotechnology: Experiences from Developed and Developing Countries.* The FAO's webcast of the side event is online at http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/4049/icode/.

North America recognizes that biotechnology can help smallholders

26. The Conference recognized that the Symposium presented numerous case studies of how biotechnology has directly benefited smallholders in developing countries, including examples where it increased smallholders' productivity and incomes, and reduced agriculture's environmental impacts.

Request that FAO do more on biotechnology

27. The Conference commended FAO for hosting the Symposium, and providing a neutral forum for discussion to share information and raise awareness. The Conference also recognized the

challenges that the subject of biotechnology can raise, but stressed the importance of having an open dialogue based on facts and science.

28. The Conference encouraged FAO to continue its efforts towards building trust and bridging the gap on views concerning agroecology and biotechnology, including GM crops, and concerns about intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge. Like FAO, the Conference highlighted the need to convene discussions on these issues and foster fruitful debates that address points of contention.

29. The Conference agreed with the evidence presented at the Symposium that biotechnology can make a significant contribution to increasing farmers' incomes, adapting agriculture to climate change, and making agriculture more environmentally sustainable. Considering this, the Conference encouraged FAO to increase its efforts to inform Members and others about the facts around biotechnology, including genetic modification.

30. The Conference requested that FAO provide a timeframe for the release of the summary report of the Symposium. In addition, the Conference supported FAO's intention to organize regional conferences to advance discussions on biotechnology and include opportunities to hear about the needs and concerns of farmers, stakeholders, and policy makers at the country and grassroots levels.

VII. FAO and Outreach with Non-State Actors

FAO work with civil society and the private sector

31. Ms. Marcella Villarreal, Mr. Daniele Volpe, and Mr. Guilherme Brady from FAO's Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC) delivered a presentation and then engaged in a discussion with U.S. and Canadian representatives on the FAO's partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

32. OPC stated that 125 requests for potential partnerships were considered during 2014-15 (which include civil society, the private sector and academia), with over 100 new agreements formalized since approval of the FAO partnerships strategies in April 2013. OPC is increasing its focus on agreements that have concrete, specific activities and results. The officials added that partnerships contribute to the FAO's knowledge management, norms and standards setting, mobilization of resources, policy dialogue, advocacy, and communication.

North America recognizes importance of partnerships

33. The Conference:

a) Appreciated the presentation and reaffirmed the importance of civil society and private sector partnerships. Similarly, the Conference emphasized that better coordination and collaboration between public and private sector can assist FAO in achieving its Strategic Objectives. Similarly, the Conference stressed that the FAO must work with civil society and the private sector to help countries achieve targets in the SDGs.
b) Stressed that meaningful Private Sector engagement is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda.
c) Underscored the need for FAO to consult more and be more open to partnerships with the private sector.
d) Requested that FAO be more transparent regarding its criteria for agreements with on-state actors.
e) Welcomed the activities under the International Year of Pulses and highlighted the importance of pulses in meeting food security, nutritional and sustainability challenges.

VIII. Concluding Remarks

Date and place for the fifth FAO Informal North American Regional Conference

34. The Conference agreed that the next meeting of the iNARC will be hosted in the United States in 2018.

Appendix A

Agenda of the Fourth Informal North American Regional Conference

Monday, March 21:

9:00	***Introductions*** Welcoming from the Co-Chairs: Canada: Mr. Frédéric Seppey, Chief Agricultural Negotiator. United States: Mr. John Cordone, Principal Deputy General Counsel. Roundtable of introductions. Overview of the meeting's agenda.
9:20	***Item 1: North American Priorities and the FAO's Strategic Objectives*** Videoconference presentations by Mr. Dan Gustafson and Mr. Boyd Haight, FAO. Brief overview of the FAO's Strategic Framework. How the FAO has organized its work and budget to address the Strategic Objectives. Brief analysis of the FAO's Strategic Objectives and how they relate to North American priorities. Discussion among officials from Canada and the United States on each of the FAO's Strategic Objectives. Engagement from all relevant organizations: fisheries, forestry, agriculture, development, regulatory agencies, etc.
10:30	***Health break***
10:45	***Item 1: continued*** Discussion, continued. Conclusion: summary of key messages the iNARC has on: The FAO's Strategic Framework; Priorities for each of the Strategic Objectives; Requests for the FAO / member states regarding the Strategic Framework.
11:45	***Lunch***

1:15 pm	***Item 2: FAO, Trade, and Food Security*** Videoconference presentation from FAO officials Mr. Jamie Morrison and Ms. Ekaterina Krivonos: Findings of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2015-16* regarding agri-food trade, economic growth, and food security. FAO's work with the World Trade Organization and other work the Organization is pursuing related to informing countries about trade issues, and sharing information to resolve disputes. FAO's roadmap about increasing agri-food trade into its work. Video presentation by Ms. Margaret Walsh, U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Change Program Office on report: *Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System.* Discussion: North America's views concerning agri-food trade, and the FAO. Suggested changes to FAO's programming, analysis, and work to better integrate trade considerations. Conclusion: summary of key messages the iNARC has on this agenda item, requests for action we have for the FAO or others.
3:00	***Health Break***
3:15	***Item 3: The FAO's Liaison Office for North America*** Presentation by the Director of the Washington, D.C. based Liaison Office, Mr. Ajay Markanday. Will discuss the Liaison Office's role, work, and potential future activities. Discussion on how North America can take better advantage of the Liaison Office. Key issue will be engagement in both Canada and the United States. Conclusion: key messages, requests for action for the Liaison Office.
4:00	***Item 4: Closed session – representatives from Canada and the United States only***
5:00	***Item 5: Wrap-up of the Day*** Chair summarizes the events and conclusions of the day.
5:15	***End of first day.***

Tuesday, March 22:

9:00	***Introductions*** Welcoming from the Co-Chairs; recap of previous day.
9:15	***Item 6: FAO: Agenda 2030, Climate Change and the Future*** Videoconference presentation by Mr. Kostas Stamoulis of the FAO on Agenda 2030. Videoconference presentation by Dr. Martin Frick of the FAO on Climate Change. Discussion: North American views on the FAO and the 2030 agenda, climate change, and other global topics that engage other institutions. Conclusion: summary of key messages the iNARC has on this agenda item.
10:30	***Health break***
10:45	***Item 7: The FAO's Symposium on Biotechnology*** Presentation via videoconference by Mr. Dan Gustafson and Mr. Chikelu Mba on the FAO's International Symposium *The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition*, held February 15 – 17, 2016. Highlights, lessons learned, and next steps for the FAO concerning the Symposium, and biotechnology. Presentation by Ms. Veronica McGuire, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, on: Canadian views on the Symposium's outcomes and achievements; Report of the joint Canada / USA side event held at the Symposium on February 16; and Report of the meeting of the Global Low Level Presence (LLP) Initiative (GLI), held February 18-19. Discussion among iNARC participants: views on the Symposium and joint side event, and recommended next steps for the FAO regarding biotechnology. Conclusion: summary of key messages the iNARC has on the Symposium, requests for action we may have regarding biotechnology at the FAO.

12:00	***Item 8: FAO and Consulting with Civil Society, Private Sector*** Participation by Ms. Marcella Villareal (Director, Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development), Mr. Guilherme Brady (FAO's Civil Society Organization team) and Mr. Daniele Volpe (FAO's Private Sector team). Discussion of the FAO's policies for engaging with civil society and the private sector, track record to date, planned next steps regarding consultations. Dialogue: views from Canada and the United States on the policies, implementation to date. Possibility of consulting with civil society, academic and private sectors in the future. Conclusion: summary of key messages the iNARC has on this agenda item.
1:00	***Item 9: Conclusion of the iNARC*** Reporting to the FAO, other Member States about the iNARC. Co-chairs share concluding remarks about the iNARC meeting.
1:20	***ıd of the 2016 iNARC***

Appendix B

North American Priorities by FAO Strategic Objective for 2016-17

Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

1) In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focus on promoting sustainable improvements in food security and nutrition, especially among women, children and youth, nutritionally vulnerable households and populations such as infants and pregnant/lactating women.

2) Focus on providing targeted climate-smart agriculture support to countries to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and resilience.

Key Implementation Items:

1.a Provide information, assessments and analysis to combat hunger and reduce malnutrition, including intra-household assessments, gender-based analysis and sex-disaggregated data.

1.b Collaborate with appropriate partners utilizing existing mechanisms (SUN and 1,000 Days) in assisting Members to identify food insecure populations and those vulnerable to nutrition-related problems.

1.c Promote food safety/quality and with focus on nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming.

1.d Promote environmental sustainability in food production including integration into food system value and supply chains

1.e Support the development of climate-smart agriculture related extension materials and services.

1.f Prevent food-borne diseases; focus on consumer protection and fair practices in food trade.

Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.

1) Contain and combat economically important animal diseases and pests and reduce their economic impact and any associated human health risks. With regard to animal disease or animal genetic resources: international cooperation on disease and pest prevention, contingency planning for preparedness, and early warning and control are FAO's comparative advantage and consequently should be its priority focus. Promote the use of biotechnology to improve livestock and poultry.

2) Support FAO's climate smart agriculture approach to sustainably increase productivity, adapt and build resilience to climate change at all levels - from the farm to national governments, and reduce or remove Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. We encourage the FAO to continue hosting the GACSA Facilitation Unit.

3) Increase FAO's attention to innovative agricultural technologies – including biotechnology – which are critical tools to increase productivity and achieve a sustainable food supply. In addition to helping address food security challenges, these science-based technologies are

powerful allies in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts by, for example, supporting agricultural practices that could improve sustainable and efficient agriculture.

4) In order to maintain sustainability of fisheries resources and secure the role of fisheries and aquaculture as an important contributor to food security, we support more focused efforts to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, primarily through the prioritization and development of effective policy guidance, good governance and the promotion of best practices.

5) We highlight the importance of FAO remaining focused on its role as a global advisor on forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and emphasize the importance of FAO's ongoing commitment to maintain its technical capacity as it moves forward with its organizational restructuring. To this end, FAO should fully implement the decision taken at the December 2015 FAO Council meeting to undertake an independent "assessment" of the impact of these changes on technical capacity, and to share this with the interested governing bodies and at the 2017 FAO Conference.

6) Focus on the FAO's comparative advantage in forest resource monitoring/information and developing and promoting sustainable forest management practices, strategies, and guidelines. Enhance cross-sectoral integration of forests with other issues, in particular food security and water.

7) We are committed to robust agricultural science systems that support teaching, extension and research. The FAO's role in advancing sustainable productivity through strong science-based human and institutional capacity, service and innovation is critical to meeting global food security goals.

Key Implementation Items:

2.a Strengthen the capacity of the Commission on Genetic Resources and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to generate international standards; establish and promote effective information exchange systems among members; address the technical capacity of all member countries, especially developing member countries, to conserve and use genetic resources sustainably; provide a sufficient and sustainable technical and administrative support structure to meet members' needs and priorities; and support the recommendations and priority activities from the Commission's Global Plans of Action.

2.b Assist governments to better incorporate science and technology advice into their decision-making processes in an effective and consistent manner through the development of "best practices."

2.c Introduce normative work to address and adapt to climate change impacts on fish stocks, fisheries and fisheries management governance.

2.d Effectively align FAO's Strategic Framework with the Sustainable Development Goals identified as relevant to FAO's mandate and ensure coherence and integration across divisions for monitoring and reporting.

2.e Strengthen FAO's work on climate information services, including the development of services that are directly relevant to smallholder farmers and which can be disseminated on a broad scale, taking into account local conditions.

2.f Continue to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including efforts to implement FAO's instruments and prioritize this work, including the Port State Measures Agreement, the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, the voluntary guidelines

on Flag State Performance and development of international guidelines on catch documentation schemes.

2.g Strengthen FAO's ability to develop technical and normative work on fisheries and aquaculture through possible restructuring of the COFI subcommittees or creating a new subcommittee on fisheries management.

2.h Work collaboratively with other international organizations to address the social and labor aspects of the fish and seafood sector.

2.i Build capacity and provide guidance on the biodiversity impacts of fishing and fishing related activities.

2.j Build capacity at the national and regional levels to support implementation of existing instruments, particularly the guidelines on bycatch management and reduction of discards and the voluntary guidelines on small scale fisheries. Introduce new normative work on catch monitoring and reporting guidance.

2.k With the increasing importance of aquaculture as a means to meet the shortfall in human needs for fish protein, increase efforts to implement FAO's aquaculture sub-committee's strategic framework.

2.l Continue to focus on the FAO Forest Department's forest resource monitoring and information, with emphasis on further incorporating remote sensing data; refining the Global Forest Resource Assessment variables (e.g., natural and planted forest, employment and governance), and further expanding the types of data collected to allow for an improved understanding of the full benefits that forests have to livelihoods and society.

2.m Continue Forest Department's leadership as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which engages both member states and civil society through key international forest-related organizations and processes.

2.n Continue efforts to improve sustainable forest management practices, for example on wildfire management, and forest climate change adaptation and mitigation.

2.o Ensure sufficient resources (human & financial) are re-directed towards achieving the stated performance indicators required to address the sustainability of FAO's plant protection programs and the use of international standards. Efficient and resilient production systems using appropriate farming practices will be essential.

2.p Strengthen IPPC's capacity to generate international standards; establish and promote effective information exchange systems among members; address the technical capacity of all member countries, especially developing countries; and provide a sufficient and sustainable administrative support structure to meet its members' needs and priorities.

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

1) Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development should be mainstreamed and managed by an empowered FAO Office of Partnerships that has a clear mandate to strengthen ties between FAO and a variety of relevant private sector partners to improve the efficiency of agricultural value-chains including enhanced access to diversified markets by smallholder farmers, particularly women and youth, and small to medium-sized enterprises. Appropriate policies, strategies and programmes are

also needed to create opportunities for the rural poor to access decent farm and non-farm employment.

2) As identified in the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18), Rio+20, and the 2030 Agenda, the important links between urban food needs and rural food production are growing; urbanization in North America and around the world points to an urgent need to act. As recognized by the FAO, a fuller understanding of such linkages, including their resilience and vulnerabilities, will become more and more critical in the future.

3) Continue to ensure that climate-smart agriculture practices are inclusive, represent an accessible option for the poorest and the most food insecure, and are linked to efforts enhance food security. This will include taking into consideration the economic, social and cultural conditions during the design and application of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices.

Key Implementation Items:

3.a Prioritize food safety data collection, food insecurity forecasting and early warning systems, including the collection of sex-disaggregated data

3.b Consider approaches to minimize waste and explore non-food applications of agricultural bio-products.

3.c Continue to focus on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. Place a high priority on conducting research; promoting information on and advocacy of best practices; and assisting governments to adopt policies and laws on land tenure and governance, particularly in favor of advancing women's access to land ownership.

3.d Continue FAO work on sustainable value chains on food systems by enhancing economic, social and environmental sustainability.

3.e Support the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems that serves as a platform for promoting food security by improving investment in agriculture.

3.f Strengthen efforts towards the empowerment of rural women by addressing the gender-barriers they face in accessing productive resources and social services as well as decent farm and non-farm employment opportunities; in participating as equal decision-makers in their households, communities and rural institutions; and in realizing their rights (e.g. land and property ownership).

Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels

1) Emphasize building effective frameworks for voluntary technology transfers on mutually agreed terms and plant genetic resource management, including commercial planting seed systems. We support improving science and risk-based evaluation and regulation of new agricultural technologies – including biotechnology and climate-smart agriculture practices and facilitate smallholder farmers, in particular women and youth, enhanced access to technology and improved ability to participate in agricultural markets.

2) Focus on providing technical and policy assistance in the analysis of food and agriculture markets and related impacts on food security; regional and global agricultural trade policy;

and strategies and/or proposed policies to maximize smallholders' access to markets, with particular consideration for gender-based barriers.

3) Promote the use of science-based measures and international standards to protect human health, animal and plant health, and the environment and to ensure predictable agri-food trade, particularly for innovative products derived from agricultural biotechnology. Increase the organization's investment in member country capacity building to enhance the development, use and compliance with internationally-agreed, science-based regulatory standards. Continue working with the WHO on implementing Codex Alimentarius Commission programming activities and on improving the direction of the organization. Focus on reinforcing technical capacity development at the institutional level.

4) The FAO should facilitate an enabling environment for governments and other stakeholders to improve the international frameworks, standards and guidance for new agriculture technologies - including biotechnology. Dialogue from such an enabling environment could help reduce costs for food importing countries; stimulate the investment required to deliver inclusive and efficient trade; and develop new market opportunities and minimize impediments to trade.

Key Implementation Items:

4.a Continue capacity building and normative work on improving post-harvest practices to improve yield; market access; and food safety and quality.

4.b Increase capacity building activities in targeted countries, particularly those least-developed, to develop the trade-related skills and infrastructure needed to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and expand their trade.

4.c Provide technical and policy assistance in targeted countries, particularly those least-developed, to develop the knowledge and skills required to maximize smallholder farmers' access to markets, including to address the particular constraints faced by women smallholder farmers.

4.d Further analyze and raise awareness about the contribution that innovative agricultural biotechnologies will continue to have to improve food security, decrease carbon emissions, increase climate change adaptation, and enhance overall sustainability.

4.e Increase affordable access to innovative biotechnologies for smallholders and developing countries to increase incomes and improve climate change adaptation for the most vulnerable.

4.f Establish a leadership role in promoting the movement and exchange of food and agriculture plant and livestock genetic resources.

4.g Ensure that the Codex Secretariat has strong management, to follow the founding principles of Codex. .

4.h Support joint FAO/WHO expert scientific advice programme through increased and stable funding, and through innovation within FAO on policies related to the acceptance of funds from non-government sources.

4.i Continue assessing existing capacity among member countries in order to enhance, as appropriate, their abilities to develop, use and comply with internationally-agreed, science-based regulatory standards.

4.j In support of measures to address IUU fishing, FAO to play a stronger role in promoting best practices and better coherence and harmonization of related schemes which, in turn, can better support legal trade and ensure requirements are not too onerous for states and the fish and seafood sector.

4.k Support the development and improvement of regulatory systems among member countries to enable greater synchronization of approvals of new genetically modified crops, and promote appropriate, risk-based policies for dealing with Low-Level Presence (LLP).

4.l Enhance the functionality of the FAO database for genetically modified food safety assessments, and promote the use of the database and Codex LLP annex in dealing with LLP when it does occur.

Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

1) Focus on the provision of global information, advocacy and risk management of environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture. Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and the strengthening of partnerships with relevant international institutions, focusing on exchanges, dissemination, development, and application of agricultural genetic resources.

2) Focus on the provision of knowledge, policy and technical advice/assessment; agriculture rehabilitation and extended recovery; and de-emphasize the stockpiling and delivery of supplies. Engage in policy dialogue on political actions and policies to improve food security and nutrition before, during and after crisis situations.

3) Focus on FAO's role in responding to emergencies including as part of the UN "cluster" system and co-lead of the Food Security cluster, and building resilience in vulnerable populations, particularly in protracted conflicts. The FAO has a critical role to play in disaster preparedness, prevention, early warning, resilience and mitigation in humanitarian and development contexts and in the food and agriculture sector. FAO's tripartite "One Health" cooperation with the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health is critical for global health security.

4) Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and strengthen FAO partnerships with relevant international institutions focusing on the exchange of genetic resources.

5) Continue to focus on the assessment of risk to agriculture though hazard, vulnerability, and climate risk assessments. These assessments are critical tools in informing the Climate-smart agricultural strategies that can best be used to increase resilience to current and future climate shocks and variability, and must be supported by solid datasets.

6) Provide technical and policy support for climate-smart agriculture initiatives that help smallholder farmers sustainably increase production and become resilient to the effects of climate change. These can include guidance on improved irrigation capacity, enhancing soil fertility, preserving genetic diversity in agricultural systems, and adopting stress-tolerant crops.

Key Implementation Items:

5.a Prioritize Avian Influenza Control and Prevention; build laboratory and surveillance capacity for detecting and reporting on priority animal and zoonotic diseases; expand animal disease surveillance into the commercial poultry and livestock industry.

5.b Strengthen the EMPRES and GLEWS platforms, ensure an effective and sustainable Crisis Management Centre (CMC) that quickly responds to transboundary animal disease outbreaks

5.c Build resilience of smallholder farms through reduced exposure to shocks (e.g. through the elimination of pests) and the reduction of the sensitivity of systems to shocks(e.g. through the introduction of drought-resistant varieties).

5.d Actively engage as co-lead of the UN Food Security cluster, bringing together key food assistance and nutrition actors to continue to advance food interventions in humanitarian situations, including using resilience-based approaches to address protracted food insecurity.

5.e Stress the importance and actively engage on combatting Anti-Microbial Resistance: Under the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Plan's Framework for Action, the FAO's tripartite collaboration with WHO and OIE, should include: engagement on developing communication, education and training materials and support to awareness-raising on antimicrobial resistance and promotion of good animal production and hygiene practices.

Objective 6 and Cross-Cutting Issues:

1) Ensure the sustainability of the full range of activities under this objective, including the allocation of necessary financial and human resources to strengthen the Organization's technical capacity in providing global public goods. These are essential to maintaining FAO's global role in the production of statistical and other critical data analysis; supporting FAO Technical Committees and other technical bodies and meetings; and ensuring continued technical excellence at all levels of FAO.

2) Fully incorporate gender in all FAO's programming activities, both at HQ and in field operations. This includes gender-based analysis to understand gender-related opportunities, as well as strengthening the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to help identify ways to improve programs.

3) Fully incorporate governance considerations in all FAO's programming activities, both at HQ and in field operations. This includes an overall focus on building inclusive, participatory, effective, transparent and accountable institutions and systems that have a role in agriculture and food security objectives in developing countries.

4) Fully incorporate nutrition considerations in all FAO's programming and activities, both at HQ and in field operations. This includes increasing knowledge and evidence to maximize the impact of food and agricultural systems on nutrition, improving food and agricultural systems' governance for nutrition, and strengthening national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status.

5) Fully incorporate climate change consideration, including climate-smart agriculture, into programming activities both at HQ and in field operations. This includes identifying and evaluating programs where there can be sustainable increases in agricultural productivity while adapting and building resilience of agricultural and food security systems to climate change at multiple levels and, where possible, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Particular attention should be payed to the role that new technologies, including biotechnology, can play in mitigating emissions and helping smallholders adapt to climate change.

Key Implementation Items:

6.a Governance: a reference to the independent assessment on FAO's technical capacity.

6.b Gender: Provide systematic and regular reporting on progress achieved towards gender results, including on the implementation of the FAO's Gender Equality Policy's minimum standards and the institutional mechanisms.

6.c Climate change: Complete a corporate Climate Change strategy, following consultations with FAO's governing bodies, focused on FAO's comparative advantages, and develop and Action Plan detailing how the strategy will be implemented through the current and future PWBs. (drawing on the document PC 119/4 "Strategy for FAO's work on Climate Change – roadmap").]