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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Thirty-fifth Session

Thimphu, Bhutan, 17-20 February 2020

**Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020-2023 for the FAO
Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

Executive Summary

This document frames the work of the Regional Conference for the period 2020-2023. It takes into consideration the views expressed by the member countries in various fora and the new vision of FAO's Senior Management on role and functions of the Regional Conferences.

A report on how FAO's regional activities have addressed regional priorities during 2018-2019, as well as priorities and recommendations of the regional technical commissions, along with the plans and priorities of partners such as the Regional Economic Organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, is presented in document APRC/20/6.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

- The Regional Conference is invited to endorse this MYPOW for the period 2020-2023.

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Introduction

1. A Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) was discussed at the 33rd Session of APRC held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016. At the subsequent 34th Session of APRC held in Nadi, Fiji, from 9-13 April 2018, the MYPOW 2016-2019 was again presented to the Regional Conference. At its 34th session in 2018, the Regional Conference endorsed the MYPOW for the 2016-2019 period, to frame the work of the Regional Conference and encouraged regular and systematic review of the performance and efficiency of the Regional Conference, and looked forward to receiving a report at its next session.
2. It is recalled that the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the region on matters related to the Organization's mandate, and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on priorities, programmes and budgetary matters of the Organization.
3. The Regional Conference provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It also conducts regional-level assessments, to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture, food security and nutrition. It exercises oversight of the functions and activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization. It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.
4. The technical commissions of the region review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of Fisheries (APFIC), Forestry (APFC), Agricultural Statistics (APCAS), Plant Protection (APPPC) and Animal Production and Health (APHCA). Their recommendations complement and inform discussions during the APRC on the Programme of Work, its strategic focus and the Regional Initiatives.
5. The 31st Regional Conference "appreciated the efforts to develop the first MYPOW for framing the work of the Regional Conference and encouraged further refinement and elaboration with respect to its purpose and functions, specific work tasks of the Regional Conference related to the reference period, and inclusion of measurable indicators."¹
6. The MYPOW 2020–2023 is hereby presented for consideration by the 35th session of the APRC.

Results

Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

7. Result 1:

Regional Conference recommendations and guidance on regional priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets, as well as on the issues pertaining to food security, agriculture and rural development in the region, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the Council and the Conference, as appropriate. The Regional Conference would set priorities at the Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives (SOs), in alignment with identified regional and subregional priorities and special initiatives.

¹ APRC/12/REP, para. 60

8. Indicators and targets:

- a. Clear and specific recommendations at Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives made by the Regional Conference to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets in the region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators. Indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART).
- b. Regional Conference recommendations relating to the regional priorities and FAO's Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), are reflected in the Council and Conference reports.
- c. Regional Conference guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant bodies.

9. Output:

- a. Results-based information on past programme implementation and achievement will be provided to the Regional Conference. More detailed progress on regional activities implemented under the Regional Offices' responsibility, including on the Regional Initiatives, would also be available for the Regional Conferences' review.
- b. Clear, precise and action-oriented recommendations for Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budget for the region.

10. Activities:

- a. Review implementation of regional priorities in the region.
- b. Review decisions and recommendations from the regional technical commissions, and other relevant institutions and meetings in the region.
- c. Review the performance of the Organization in the region, including the past programme implementation and achievement at the Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives, Regional Initiatives, completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and the effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
- d. Make recommendations on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work in the region.

11. Working methods:

- a. Liaison with relevant statutory bodies, including the regional technical commissions and other institutions in the region.
- b. Informal consultations among Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersession period.
- c. Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the ADG/Regional Representative, including for informal coordination meetings with the secretariats of the regional technical commissions.
- d. FAO Representatives organize in-country meetings to present and review the technical papers that will be presented to APRC. These meetings should be open to any interested government officers, and participants from civil society, private sector, academia, NGOs/IGOs.

Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters

12. Result 2:

Regional Conference recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.

13. Indicators and targets:

- a. Clear, action-oriented recommendations included in the Regional Conference report.
- b. Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

14. Output:

- a. Clear recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

15. Activities:

- a. Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting on the mandate of FAO.
- b. Consider the recommendations from FAO Statutory Bodies, including the regional technical commissions, and other meetings of relevance to the region.
- c. Address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the region.
- d. Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the region.

16. Working methods:

- a. Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region.
- b. Liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the region.
- c. Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the ADG/Regional Representative, including for informal coordination meetings with the secretariats of the regional technical commissions.

Work planning and working methods

17. Result 3:

The Regional Conference operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

- a. Regional Conference agendas are focused.
- b. The value of Regional Conferences allows for a greater and more informal exchange of views and experience among delegates, and also with major regional organizations.
- c. Regional Conference decisions are taken by consensus.
- d. Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
- e. Regional Conference documents adhere to corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
- f. Seventy (70) percent of countries participate at a senior level in the Regional Conference.

18. Outputs:

- a. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference (MYPOW) adopted.
- b. Methods of work of the Regional Conference kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

19. Activities:

- a. Consult with Members on agenda and format of the Regional Conference.
- b. Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available.
- c. Review Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conference.
- d. Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures.
- e. Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.

20. Working methods:

- a. Consult with Members, through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference.
- b. Intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference through the Bureau, with support from the secretariat.
- c. Structured and focused deliberations and interventions during sessions.
- d. Efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
- e. Secretariat support for the implementation of, and follow up to, the MYPOW.
- f. Informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC).