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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-first Session

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23-27 March 2020

**Multi-year Programme of Work 2020-2023 for the Regional Conference for
Africa**

Executive Summary

This document presents the MYPOW for the Regional Conference for Africa for the period of 2020-2023. The MYPOW describes the overall objectives, results and mechanisms underlying the operations of the ARC for the coming years. It aims to continue efforts to strengthen communication of programme outcomes with the Africa Group of Permanent Representative to FAO, the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The MYPOW 2020-2023 is presented to the Regional Conference for its approval and endorsement.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

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Introduction

I. Overall Objectives

1. The overall objectives reflect the enhanced role of the Regional Conference in the governance process of FAO. In particular, the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the region regarding matters pertaining 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 matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.
2. In this context, the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional results, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. ARC also conducts regional-level assessments to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture, food and nutrition security. The Regional Conference also 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.
3. The African Union Commission (AUC), through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency's (NPCA) Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), serves as foundation for the work of ARC. The FAO Multi-disciplinary teams (MDT), organized at the subregional level, and the Regional Management Team (RMT) at the regional level review technical aspects and issues of importance to the CAADP and priorities for FAO's work in the region, for consideration by ARC.

II. Results

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

4. Result 1: ARC recommendations and guidance provide a sound basis for decision-making by the Council and the Conference on the regional priorities, programmes, regional initiatives, organizational structure and budgets, as well as on the CAADP and relevant programmes, and issues pertaining to food and nutrition security, agriculture, natural resources and rural development.
5. Indicators and targets:
 - Through Programme and Finance Committees, ARC provides timely, clear and specific recommendations to the Council on FAO's priorities, programmes, regional initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators. Indicators should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART).
 - ARC recommendations relating to the regional priorities for FAO's work in the region, the FAO Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and Conference reports.
 - ARC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant Governing Bodies.

6. Outputs:
 - Clear, precise and action-oriented recommendations for Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the region.

7. Activities:
 - Review implementation of the regional priorities and PWB in the region.
 - Review decisions and recommendations from the Regional Technical Commissions, and other relevant institutions and meetings in the region.
 - Review the performance of the Organization in the region, including effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations.
 - Make recommendations on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

8. Working methods:
 - Collaborate with relevant Statutory Bodies, technical commissions, RECs and other institutions in the region.
 - Informal consultations among Members, as appropriate, to foster dialogue during the intersessional period.
 - Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and the Assistant Director-General /Regional Representative, including for informal coordination meetings with the Secretariats of the subregional and regional technical commissions.

B. Monitoring of and Advice on Policy and Regulatory Matters

9. Result 2: ARC recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.

10. Indicators and targets:
 - Clear, action-oriented recommendations included in the ARC report.
 - Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

11. Output:
 - Clear recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

12. Activities:
 - Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting the mandate of FAO.
 - Consider the recommendations from FAO Statutory Bodies, including the regional technical commissions, and meetings of relevance to the region.

- Periodically address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the region.
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the region.

13. Working methods:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region.
- Liaise with relevant FAO Statutory Bodies, regional technical commissions, RECs and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with relevant subregional Groups.
- Regular contacts between the Chairperson of ARC and FAO Management.

C. Work Planning and Working Methods

14. Result 3: ARC operates effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

15. Indicators and targets:

- ARC agendas are focused.
- ARC decisions are taken by consensus.
- ARC reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, results-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner.
- ARC documents adhere to new corporate presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
- At least 90-100 percent of countries participate at the appropriate level in ARC.

16. Outputs:

- Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for ARC adopted in 2020.
- Methods of work of ARC kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

17. Activities:

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

18. Working methods:

- Consult with Members, through the Chairperson of ARC.
- Facilitate intersessional activities by the Chairperson of ARC through the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
- Advance Intersessional work through the AUC-NEPAD/NPCA and its Executive Committee for continuity between biennial meetings.
- Deliver structured and focused deliberations and interventions during sessions.

- Ensure efficient drafting arrangements for reports.
- Provide Secretariat support for the implementation of and follow up to the MYPOW.
- Convene informal meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC).