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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirty-first Session

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23-27 March 2020

### FAO Country Planning and Programming in the Context of Repositioning the United Nations Development System

#### I. Background

1. In September 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and priority objectives to end poverty and hunger and ensure that no one is left behind. On 31 May 2018, the General Assembly welcomed a revitalized, strategic, flexible, results- and action-oriented UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), subsequently renamed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), as the most important instrument for planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>.

#### II. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

2. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ('Cooperation Framework'), is the vehicle for defining United Nations' contribution and commitment to support national efforts to achieve economic, social and environmental targets under the 2030 Agenda.

3. The Cooperation Framework is first and foremost a partnership with the government and represents a commitment to the people in a country, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, while also being a core reference for accountability between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the host government and among UNCT members for collectively owned development results.

4. The Cooperation Framework represents the UN development system's collective offer to support countries in addressing key Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priorities and gaps. It begins and ends with an analysis of the national development landscape and SDG priorities, including through the lens of the imperative to leave no one behind.

5. The Cooperation Framework identifies specific SDG targets in each country and serves as the results framework against which contributing UN entities will be held collectively and individually accountable. Therefore, entity-specific country programmes including the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) should be derived from the Cooperation Framework, not vice versa.

<sup>1</sup> A/Res/72/279. Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

6. FAO has been very active in all streams of the design process of the new UNSDCF Guidelines and related companion pieces, for it to reflect the import role of specialized agencies in country programming. FAO is currently fully engaged in supporting the 'roll-out' countries in the development of both the underpinning UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the full development of the Cooperation Framework to ensure that FAO's strategic and timely contribution is provided as part of the UN 'collective offer' towards transformative and structural changes in countries.

7. The UN CCA examines progress, gaps, opportunities and bottlenecks vis-à-vis a country's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter, including as reflected in the Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles. The UN CCA draws from and add to existing data, statistics, analyses, reviews, research, capacities and resources from within and outside the UN system.

### **III. Country Programming Framework**

8. The CPF is the FAO planning and programming tool at country level, and sets the basis of FAO's country-level strategic prioritization and overall medium-term country-level programming. FAO has substantially revised its CPF Guidelines in order for FAO planning and programming at country level to be fully derived from the UN Cooperation Framework, as required by the UNSDCF Guidelines. The CPF is now tightly linked to the UN CCA and Cooperation Framework. This means that the most strategic and important entry point for FAO is during the UN CCA process. FAO recognizes the strategic importance of the UN CCA which represents a key engagement opportunity with the UN System for defining FAO's role and work at country level, based on its recognized role in collecting and analysing evidence for evidence-based strategic planning of countries.

9. Moreover, as the UN CCA constitutes the UN offer to the host country and the agreed Cooperation Framework represents the UN commitment against which UN Development System (UNDS) entities will be held collectively and individually accountable, consultations on the FAO CPF with the government, other key stakeholders and development partners must be fully embedded within the Cooperation Framework process and cycle. This requirement ensures that the UN approach is cohesive and that the collective efforts of the UNDS support country ownership and address national SDG priorities and gaps. It is therefore very important that FAO relevant line ministries are fully part of the Cooperation Framework consultation process from the onset.

10. The CPF remains FAO's planning and programming document at country level, yet it must be duly derived from and synchronized with the Cooperation Framework process and cycle. It is therefore important that FAO Representatives (FAORs) ensure that FAO's contributions to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at country level are reflected in the Cooperation Framework. Internal training for FAO Regional and Country Offices on the Cooperation Framework and the derived new FAO CPF have been rolled out.