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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE

Forty-second Session

2021

Report of the 73rd (Extraordinary) Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (22 January 2021)

Executive Summary

The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) held its 73rd (Extraordinary) Session on 22 January 2021, devoted to the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition, and adopted its report on 19 February 2021. The Committee wishes to bring to the attention of the Council and Conference the following matters.

Matters requiring the attention of the Council

The Council is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- a) The appreciation of the comprehensive nature of the updated draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and the inclusive consultative effort (paragraph 8).
- b) The anticipation of the finalization of the Strategy and its Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan (paragraph 9).

Matters requiring the attention of the Conference

The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and attention is drawn in particular to:

- a) The appreciation of the comprehensive nature of the updated draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and the inclusive consultative effort (paragraph 8).

Suggested action by Council and Conference

The Council and Conference are invited to endorse the Report of the 73rd (Extraordinary) Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and the recommendations therein.

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

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I. Introduction

1. The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) held its 73rd (Extraordinary) Session on 22 January 2021. Of the 109 Members of the Committee, 83 registered for the Session, including one Minister. Six Member Nations of the Organization participated as observers. The list of participants is available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/commodity-problems/ccp73/list-of-documents/en/>.
2. The Session was chaired by Mr Gustaf Daud Sirait of Indonesia, who assumed the functions of Chairperson following the resignation of the Chairperson, Mr Fredrik Alfer of Sweden, as per the Committee's Rules of Procedure.
3. The Committee was informed that the European Union was participating in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.
4. The Session was convened virtually, on an exceptional basis, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health concerns and constraints. This followed consultations by the Bureau and endorsement by the Committee Members on the alternative arrangements for the holding of the Session virtually.
5. Prior to beginning its deliberation, the Committee confirmed that the virtual meeting constituted a formal extraordinary Session of the Committee. The Committee agreed to apply its Rules of Procedure and practices to the conduct of this Session and to suspend any rules that may be incompatible with the virtual meeting for the purposes of this Session. The Committee also agreed to the application of any special procedures or amended working modalities as may be required for the efficient conduct of the Session.
6. The Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Timetable for the Session. The Agenda is reproduced in Appendix A, and the List of Documents in Appendix B.
7. Dr QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General, addressed the Committee.

II. Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition

8. The Committee welcomed and looked forward to the updated draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition (CCP73/2021/2), and appreciated its comprehensive nature, encompassing all sectors in a food systems approach, and the inclusive consultative effort.
9. The Committee looked forward to the finalization of the Strategy and its Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan.
10. The Committee provided valuable guidance on the Strategy, from the perspective of markets and trade, to ensure its relevance to fulfil FAO's mandate and to support Members in their efforts to end food insecurity and malnutrition, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

11. The Committee:

- a) appreciated the vision of the draft Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition and noted paragraph 15 of document CCP73/2021/2;
- b) recognized the crucial role of markets and trade in contributing to healthy diets and ending food insecurity and malnutrition in all of its forms, especially for the poor and vulnerable, including through the generation of employment and income;
- c) acknowledged the importance of trade for contributing to the availability, accessibility and affordability of food, including nutritious food, as well as the stability of markets and the limitation of extreme food price volatility, and recalled and underlined the importance that, in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and in keeping with their commitments under the WTO agreements, Members correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions as well as eliminate and do not create unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade in agricultural markets;
- d) highlighted the importance of transparency in market conditions and policies in food and agriculture, through the provision of up-to-date and credible data and information;
- e) underlined the importance of a freer, fairer, predictable and non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trading system, under the WTO and consistent with its rules, for promoting agricultural and rural development, and contributing to achieving food security and improved nutrition for all;
- f) recognized that there is 'no one size fits all' solution, highlighting the diverse contextual realities of national circumstances and the large diversity of food systems;
- g) stressed the importance of data, analysis and evidence, including on the relationship between trade and nutrition, in guiding interventions and policies;
- h) stressed the importance of food safety and plant and animal health to positive nutrition outcomes, and in particular highlighted the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in this regard;
- i) highlighted the increasing importance of digitalization and innovation, including technology to enhance productivity, and its need to be included in the finalization of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition;
- j) appreciated the reference to south-south and triangular cooperation as part of evidence generation, knowledge sharing and capacity development;
- k) emphasized the importance and value of including indigenous peoples and local communities, smallholders and family farmers in food value chains and in strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition;
- l) recognized the importance of FAO decentralized offices in partnership with national governments in the implementation of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition;
- m) called on FAO to continue strengthening its partnership with governments, other relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, for the implementation of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition;
- n) recognized the importance to address youth, gender, including rural and indigenous women, as well as women in local communities, social inequalities and poverty in the work on nutrition in the context of trade.

III. Adoption of the Report

12. The Session reconvened on 19 February 2021 for the adoption of the report.
13. The report of the Session was adopted by acclamation.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

- 1. Procedure of the Session**
 - 1.1 Opening of the Session
 - 1.2 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 2. Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition**
- 3. Adoption of the Report**

APPENDIX B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document symbol	Title
CCP73/2021/1	Provisional Agenda
CCP73/2021/2	Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in Nutrition
CCP73/2021/3	Trade and Nutrition
Information documents	
CCP73/2021/INF/1	Provisional Timetable
CCP73/2021/INF/2	List of documents
CCP73/2021/INF/3	Provisional list of delegates
CCP73/2021/INF/4	Statement of competence and voting rights submitted by the European Union (EU) and its Member States (MS)