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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

## Thirty-sixth Session

10-13 January 2022 and 7-8 February 2022

## Provisional Annotated Agenda

### Senior Officers Meeting

10-13 January 2022

#### I. Introductory Items

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 2) Appointment of the Rapporteur
- 3) Statement by the FAO Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa
- 4) Statement to the Senior Officers Meeting by the Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

#### II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

- 5) Transforming agrifood systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Near East and North Africa

A keynote speech from an eminent expert from the region on agrifood systems transformation followed by a panel discussion comprising: a country representative, a private sector representative (Union of the Arab Chambers of Commerce), a civil society representative and partner organizations (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and the UN Regional Collaborative Platform Chair). The purpose of the discussion is to frame the deliberations and the perspectives of regional stakeholders.

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

## **6) Summary of the recommendations of regional commissions**

Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the FAO Regional Commissions in the Near East with regards to (i) policy and regulatory matters; and (ii) programme and budget matters. This includes regional fora such as the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI), the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC). Updates from relevant regional meetings such as the High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee of the League of Arab States will also be presented for information .

## **7) Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in the Near East and North Africa**

An overview of progress made by FAO to bridge gender inequalities and engage women in agrifood system transformation as well as key lessons learned and future directions to better mainstream gender considerations in FAO's projects and programmes.

## **8) Rural transformation for youth employment and income – Innovation as an accelerator for agrifood systems transformation**

This item will focus on the development of an inclusive rural transformation framework aiming at reducing inequalities between urban and rural livelihoods. For this to happen, countries should invest in the promotion of agricultural innovation (including digital, institutional, and social innovation), empowerment of producers' organizations, and modern, market-oriented advisory and extension services. Countries should also aim at promoting economic inclusion pathways and gender-transformative approaches for increasing decent and green job opportunities that are attractive to youth and women by encouraging investments in human capital, infrastructure and services and leveraging public-private partnerships in the development of more efficient and inclusive value chains. This will present FAO's recommended actions and elicit feedback from Members. A specific focus will be put on the presentations of the regional digital innovation programme, followed by discussions on its implication for NENA countries.

## **9) Transforming agrifood systems to promote healthy diets for all – Making trade work for food security and nutrition in the Near East and North Africa**

As part of FAO efforts to support the NENA countries to promote food security and healthy diets for all, a programme of work is proposed focussing on (i) fostering innovation throughout agrifood systems; (ii) utilizing trade, investment and technology as enablers for food security and better nutrition; (iii) mainstreaming nutrition in food production and consumption-related policies and incentive mechanisms; (iv) ensuring food safety and reducing food loss and waste; and (v) adjusting the business models of agri-enterprises and improving access to inputs, finance and markets, especially for those who are currently at a disadvantage, such as rural women and youth, migrants, and refugees. This item will present FAO's recommended actions and elicit feedback from Members. The discussion will focus in particular on a presentation on the role of trade in achieving food security and nutrition in the NENA region and as an integral part of agrifood system transformation. Key priorities for action will be tabled for discussion and feedback from Members.

## **10) Greening agriculture: Towards sustainable recovery and climate change action – Accelerating action to address climate change**

The status, trends and challenges in the management of natural resources will be presented highlighting the most critical water, climate and natural resource sustainability issues that threaten agrifood systems in the region and that have detrimental effects on the region's terrestrial and marine ecosystems. A shift in paradigm is needed in the use of natural resources (land, water, aquatic and marine resources and biodiversity) to transition to greening agriculture for achieving sustainable agrifood systems. This shift

necessitates putting sustainability and resource productivity and efficiency at the forefront if the region were to improve food security and nutrition while at the same time protect, restore and sustainably manage its terrestrial and marine ecosystems towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This item will present FAO's recommended actions and elicit feedback from Members. A presentation of the key outcomes of COP 26 and implications and opportunities for the region will be tabled for discussion by Members.

#### **11) Building resilience for food security and nutrition – COVID-19 and the resilience of the region's agrifood systems**

An analysis of the major shocks affecting the region's agrifood systems will be presented along with their impact on food security, nutrition and livelihoods, especially among the most vulnerable. The adoption of a holistic risk management approach is proposed to strengthen a set of five resilience capacities (preventive, anticipative, absorptive, adaptive and transformative). It offers five strategic action areas aiming at: (i) understanding multiple risks; (ii) strengthening disaster risk and crisis governance; (iii) reducing risks and vulnerabilities; (iv) strengthening the One Health approach against all biological threats; and (v) enhancing anticipatory actions, emergency preparedness and response. This item will present FAO's recommended actions and elicit feedback from Members. A presentation synthesising results of FAO assessments on the impact of COVID-19 on NENA countries' agrifood systems will be presented for discussion by Members on how to build back better and more resilient agrifood systems.

### **III. Programme and Budget Matters**

#### **12) Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Review of results achieved since the last Regional Conference, and presentation on how FAO is moving towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind, and presentation of regional priorities for the coming biennium based on the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

#### **13) Update on the development of the new FAO Science and Innovation Strategy**

Update on the development of the FAO new Science and Innovation Strategy, and presentation of its outline and roadmap followed by discussion on its implication for NENA countries.

#### **14) Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change**

Progress in the development of FAO's corporate strategy on climate change as key guiding elements for FAO's programme of work in the region presented for feedback by Members.

### **IV. Other Matters**

#### **15) Multi-Year Programme of Work 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference for the Near East**

#### **16) Any other matters**

#### **17) Review of the Ministerial Declaration**

#### **18) Adoption of the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting**

## **Ministerial Session**

7-8 February 2022

**19) Statement by the Director-General**

**20) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**

**21) Statement by the Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

**22) Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

**23) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations**

**24) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector**

## **V. Round Table Discussions**

Countries will be given the opportunity to discuss the regional priorities and explore how they articulate with FAO's vision of supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. Each of the "betters" will be used as an entry point for a facilitated discussion among ministers.

**25) Ministerial Round Table I: Food security and healthy diets for all for better nutrition and a better life**

A facilitated discussion around the regional priority dedicated to food security and healthy diets and its linkages to the better nutrition and better life components of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**26) Ministerial Round Table II: Building resilient rural communities for better production, a better environment and a better life**

A facilitated discussion around the regional priority dedicated to strengthening resilience and its linkages to the better environment and better life components of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**27) Ministerial Round Table III: Green recovery and climate action for better production and a better environment**

A facilitated discussion around the regional priority dedicated to green recovery and climate change action and its linkages to the better production and better environment components of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

**28) Date and place for the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

**29) Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East**

**30) Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration**

**31) Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference**