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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-second Session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Senior Officers Meeting

11-12 April 2022

I. Introductory Items

- 1) Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Ministerial Session items from 3 to 14 on pages 6-8)

II. Programme and Budget Matters

15) Regional results, priorities, the four betters and the Sustainable Development Goals

The document on **Regional results, priorities, the four betters and the Sustainable Development Goals** serves to demonstrate that FAO's work provides a strong conceptual basis and means of action to achieve results for countries in the region, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to food and agriculture. Among others, the document describes results achieved in the region during the 2020-21 biennium, including major highlights and cross-cutting themes under the results framework in place at that time. This document would also highlight new ways of working, modalities and programmes introduced by the Director-General in 2020-21 and describe how these have impacted the region, making it more inclusive, efficient and effective in moving towards agrifood systems transformation.

The 42nd Session of the Conference in June 2021 endorsed the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, focusing on the transformation to **MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood**

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. This includes 20 Programme Priority Areas under the *four betters* grounded in specific SDG targets to which the Organization is well-positioned to contribute, and the four accelerators of technology, innovation (including digital), data (including big data) and complements (human capital, governance, institutions) and new cross-cutting themes.

The document *Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31* presents the **regional approach towards implementing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31**, and the Medium Term Plan 2022-2025/Programme of Work and Budget 2022-23.

16) Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy

The 168th Session of the FAO Council welcomed the initiative to develop FAO's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy with the overall aim of strengthening FAO's capacities to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and the Strategic Framework 2022-31, supported the proposed outline and requested FAO to implement the roadmap. For the Africa Region, a regional meeting involving all FAO representatives and technical officers was held on 25 November 2021 to provide inputs to the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. A multi-stakeholder dialogue was organized in January 2022 to provide specific recommendations for the implementation of the Strategy.

This Information Note provides an update to the outline and roadmap document (CL 168/22), which was considered by the Programme Committee and the Council in 2021. Members are invited to consider the update and the outline and roadmap document, and to provide guidance, including regarding its implications for Africa, as deemed appropriate.

17) Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change

The implementation of the existing FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017) and FAO's general contribution to climate action (SDG 13) were subject to an evaluation whose recommendations were approved at the 166th Session of the Council. As per Recommendation 2 of the Evaluation, the development of a new FAO Strategy on Climate Change is on-going and two informal consultations with Members were organized on 8 September and 26 November 2021, where FAO Members reiterated the urgency to act and confirmed their commitment to the Strategy development process.

FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change will be implemented in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to address the overarching challenges of making agrifood systems more efficient, sustainable and resilient to climate-related shocks and stresses. The Strategy will be built on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which further define the Strategy's main climate action pillars, their outcomes and targets. The Regional Conference may wish to provide guidance on the development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change from the perspective of the region's priorities in climate action and how FAO can support them.

III. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

18) One Health Platform: Prevention of future pandemics through effective cross-sectoral engagement

In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 114 public health events in 35 member countries in Africa. Of these, 92 (81 percent) were due to infectious diseases including epidemics of zoonotic origin.¹ The wide-ranging impacts of these events are evident in the aftermath of the Ebola

¹ <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/acute-public-health-events-assessed-who-regional-offices-africa-americas-and-europe-1>, page 17

Virus disease (EVD) crisis in West Africa that occurred between 2013 and 2016. The crisis was responsible for more than 26 000 deaths and has hampered both economic growth, social development and threatened global health security. On a much larger scale, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic further underscores three main issues; (i) the interlinked nature between the health of humans, animals and ecosystems; (ii) the required measures to control pandemics with huge negative spill over effects to critical sectors of the national, regional and global economies such as disruptions in food systems, disturbances in transport and trade; and (iii) the need for multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary engagements that are effective and expand beyond the conventional animal-human-ecosystem interfaces to now include participation of sectors that bear the biggest impacts of pandemics e.g. tourism, trade and transport, education, etc.

The document discusses mechanisms and progress towards tackling the increasing threats to global health and socioeconomic progress posed by zoonotic diseases, and prevention of future pandemics through improving multi-sector engagement to understand the complexity of, and effective response to, health risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interfaces. Achieving this requires the One Health (OH) approach and solutions characterized by multisector engagement and interdisciplinary cooperation that includes and extends beyond the animal, human and environmental health systems.

IV. Other Matters

19) Multi-Year Programme of Work 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference for Africa

All FAO Regional Conferences prepare a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) covering a period of at least four years. This document presents the MYPOW for the Regional Conference for Africa for the period 2022-2025. It aims to continue efforts to strengthen communication of programme outcomes with the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO, the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The MYPOW describes the overall objectives, results and mechanisms underlying the operations of the ARC for the coming years.

20) Date and place of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

21) Any other business

22) Adoption of the Report of the Senior Officers Meeting

Preparation, discussion and approval of a draft report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Session.

Information documents²

a) Reporting on the recommendations of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

Following the recommendations of ARC 31, the report shows the progress and results achieved in Africa during the biennium 2020-2021 and the implementation of the recommendations of ARC 31.

² If they so wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any Other Business.”

b) Summary Report of recommendations of FAO regional Statutory Bodies (statistics, fisheries)

Regional Statutory Bodies in statistics and fisheries have regular consultations with documented recommendations that are summarized for information for the Regional Conference.

The 27th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) was held in virtual mode, from 15 to 18 November 2021, with Senegal as the host country. Delegates from AFCAS member countries as well as national, regional and international institutions participated. To assist Members in improving data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination, comparability and development of SDG indicators, the 27th Session of AFCAS focused on six key items: (i) FAO's activities in food and agricultural statistics relevant to Africa region since the last 26th Session of the Commission; (ii) impact of COVID-19 and adaptations of statistical operations; (iii) challenges and methodological development for collecting SDG indicators in Africa; (iv) the 50x2030 initiative and statistical innovation in agricultural statistics; (v) use of earth observation data for producing agricultural statistics; and (vi) enhancing fisheries and aquaculture data to support the monitoring and sustainability of the sector and contribute to SDG achievements and challenges. The conference discussed methodological innovations and the adoption of modern technology in the production of agricultural and food statistics including SDG indicators in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference also highlighted the necessity for international and regional organizations to strengthen their collaboration and partnership to ensure more synergies in the implementation of technical assistance programs for agricultural statistics and urged member countries to fully own and sustain received assistance.

The 19th Session of the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) was held in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 30 November to 2 December 2021. The session covered the following main topics: (i) implementation of Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and commemoration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022); (ii) digitalization of aquaculture in Africa; (iii) best practices for improved fish safety and loss reduction in inland fisheries and aquaculture and the preparation of the 12th meeting of the African Network on Fish Technology and Safety (ANFTS); and (iv) the independent study on CIFAA strategic reorientation. The session highlighted the importance of inland fisheries for nutritional, economic and cultural roles and as key components of sustainable ecosystem functioning. The session also discussed the potential contribution that aquaculture could play in many African countries' national poverty alleviation and food security programmes. The SSF Guidelines were recognized by the Committee as a global consensus on principles and guidance for small-scale fisheries (including inland) governance and development.

c) Synthesis of evaluations conducted in the Africa region 2019-2021

The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) conducts evaluations to provide accountability to member countries, giving them an assessment of the work of the Organization against its Strategic Objectives as well as its organizational performance. Importantly, evaluations provide an objective basis for programme and strategy setting by Senior Management and for decisions of FAO Governing Bodies. As set out in the OED Charter, evaluations also contribute to corporate learning. The synthesis of evaluations systematically documents patterns observed across OED evaluations. It covers results through FAO support to the region across regional priorities, emerging issues and gaps that require attention, and lessons to be learned that can inform FAO's future programming/actions in the region. The synthesis of evaluations conducted in the Africa region is organized around four themes, namely: (i) sustainable production, intensification, and value chain development; (ii) food security and nutrition; (iii) climate change, biodiversity, and natural resource management; and (iv) resilience to threats and crises. The main purpose of the report is to inform FAO Regional Conferences about results and lessons learned from OED evaluations completed between 2019 and 2021 to support in making

informed decisions on priorities and actions for their regions. Simultaneously, it aims to inform decision-making within the FAO Regional Office for Africa.

Special events

These special events aim at facilitating experience sharing among Members on the *four betters*. The events are intended to provide a platform for Members to showcase experiences and best practices in agrifood systems transformation to achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The special events are interactive and engaging sessions with adequate time allocated for experience sharing and discussion. The expected outcome of the special events is a better understanding and appreciation of various best practices and packages of solutions that Members already have, which can be scaled up or transferred to other countries taking into account local contexts.

At the outset of the special events, there will be a launch of the Africa Regional Technical Platform (RTP) on Common Agriculture Practices. The RTP is an online portal and focuses on a package of country programme solutions, lessons learned and best practices that would be useful for adaptation and context sensitive adoption for Members. It showcases support to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), scaling up technology and innovation for sustainable agricultural mechanization, engagement of parliamentarians for policy actions, promoting regional value chains and virtual learning platforms.

The special events will include:

- **Host country event**

This event is organized by Equatorial Guinea, the host country of ARC 32, focusing on forest governance. It will facilitate experience sharing on challenges related to forest governance, initiatives and programmes that have been implemented to address them, and lessons learned to date. Forests are important resources in the host country and Africa. As such, experience sharing on this topic is crucial and expected to further inform policy actions and programmes in the future.

- **Experience sharing session among member countries on better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind**

This is a dedicated session allocated for experience sharing among Members on *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind. A short video on the *four betters* will be shown, followed by a short Ted-Talk style intervention to set the stage. It will be a moderated session to ensure interaction and engagement throughout. Members and stakeholders will share powerful stories around the best practices and success stories that could shape and transform agrifood systems. It also features short clips (2-3 minutes) throughout the session demonstrating how Members have successfully implemented programmes and policies in their countries in relation to *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*. This interactive session is aimed to bring various best practices to the table that can be useful for Members to inform their efforts in transforming agrifood systems and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ministerial Session

13-14 April 2022

3) Statement by the Director-General

4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

The statement of the Chairperson of ARC 31 will provide information on his mandate and on matters related to the Africa region.

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

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the recent Plenary Sessions.

7) Statement by the African Union Commission

8) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations

Statement by the spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations summarizing results of their consultations organized prior to the Regional Conference

9) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector

Statement by the spokesperson of the Private Sector summarizing results of their consultations organized prior to the Regional Conference

V. Round Table Discussions

Delivering on better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life

10) COVID-19 impacts on agrifood systems in Africa: policy priorities for inclusive and resilient recovery

The food security and nutrition situation in Africa remains a major concern. According to FAO's last report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI 2021),³ the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa rose by over 44 million between 2019 and 2020, reaching 264.2 million in 2020. According to a preliminary assessment by FAO, up to 39 million could be attributed to the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 containment measures have led to disruptions in the upstream and downstream food market and supply chains across Africa. The lockdowns, curfews, and closures of borders, markets and restaurants resulted in marketing difficulties, increased transportation and transaction costs and affected food availability and demand in some markets. They have also exacerbated food price increases, adding to the upward trend exerted by currency depreciation and persistent insecurity, all reducing food access for the poorest segments of the population.

³ <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2021/en/>

The session intends to provide an update on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa based on an analytical review of available evidence, to provide opportunities for Members to share experiences and best practices on policy and investment options for sustainable recovery.

11) Investing in ecosystem restoration for a more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems transformation in Africa

Africa's aspiration to achieve agrifood systems transformation cannot be effective without the conservation, sustainable use and the restoration of its terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Africa's current population of 1.25 billion is likely to double by 2050, putting further pressure on the continent's natural resources and biodiversity. Overexploitation of natural resources and vulnerable ecosystems reduces biodiversity. It risks losing gains in building capacity to sustain livelihoods and capitalizing on goods and ecosystem services for sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems. The Africa region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, desertification and insecurity resulting in a reduction of the ability of its natural and production ecosystems (forests, oceans, seas, wetlands, and grasslands) to sustain people's well-being satisfactorily.

To respond to the increasing degradation and loss of Africa's ecosystems, African countries, in collaboration with partners, have stepped up their plans to stop degradation and restore degraded lands through launching a number of continent wide programmes including the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, and agroecological initiatives at the farm, landscape, country and regional levels, all of which contribute to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). The objective of the Round Table is to (i) share latest information, knowledge, experience and lessons learned from regional and country level initiatives on ecosystem restoration and their contribution to resilient and sustainable agrifood systems transformation in Africa and (ii) review challenges and opportunities as well as identify recommendations to step up ecosystem restoration for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems transformation in Africa.

12) Promotion of investment and trade for competitive agrifood systems: AfCFTA opportunities and progress

Issues of promoting investments and trade for agrifood systems transformation and market opportunities for sustainable and inclusive growth are crucial towards achieving the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development as well as the African Union Agenda 2063. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has come into force in January 2021 and aims to provide opportunities for Members to boost intra-African trade in agriculture and food and derive benefits from it. The 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa recommended FAO to recognize and support the important role that the AfCFTA can play in enhancing FAO's work in food security and nutrition as well as food systems.

This session will provide a platform to discuss progress on implementation of AfCFTA and to share experiences and best practices among Members and foster dialogue with the private sector and other stakeholders on facilitating agricultural trade and investments.

13) Placing women, youth and the poor at the forefront of inclusive agrifood systems

Transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind. Despite some progress, the current agrifood systems are still far from being inclusive and equitable. There is ample evidence documenting that rural women, young women and men and marginalized groups suffer from unequal access to resources, opportunities and decision-making and are disproportionately affected by

climate extremes and disasters, conflict, economic slowdowns and downturns, and unaffordability of healthy diets.

Countries in the Africa region have stepped up efforts to create more inclusive opportunities in the rural sector. Several key initiatives that are being undertaken aim to address youth unemployment and underemployment and revitalize their agriculture sector. The session will provide a platform for Members to share experiences and best practices on programmes and initiatives to addressing issues related to inequitable and non-inclusive agrifood systems faced by women, youth and the poor.

14) Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared, discussed and adopted by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed and endorsed. In addition, a Ministerial Declaration will be submitted for consideration and adoption.

Closure of the Regional Conference