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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-second Session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022

**Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change –
Information Note 1 – December 2021**

Executive Summary

At the 166th Session of the Council, FAO Members requested “inclusive consultations ahead of the 168th Session of the Council to start the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change which aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on the three dimensions of sustainable development and shared goals and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.” The 168th Session of the FAO Council held from 29 November to 3 December 2021 discussed extensively the “Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change” (CL 168/21) and supported the Annotated Outline of the new Strategy. This Note supplements the Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change that is scheduled for discussion in the Regional Conferences (CL 168/21) by providing an overview of the 168th Council conclusions that guide the development of the new Strategy and suggesting actions by the Regional Conferences.

In their Council deliberations, several FAO Members underlined the importance of considering the diverse contexts, specificities, priorities and capacities across regions, countries and the local level in developing the new Strategy.

Suggested actions by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference may wish to provide guidance on the further development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change from the perspective of the region, to specify the regional priorities in climate action and how FAO can best support its respective Members.

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

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I Introduction

1. The Council at its 168th Session supported the outline and roadmap of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change and looked forward to continuing the inclusive process with Members on the development of this thematic strategy.
2. This Note sets out the conclusions on the Annotated Outline of the Strategy on Climate Change made by the Council at its 168th Session.
3. The Roadmap for the Strategy development anticipates that after consideration at the 168th Session of Council in November-December 2021, the Outline will be developed into a draft Strategy in early 2022 followed by consultations with Regional Conferences, FAO experts and external stakeholders. The final draft Strategy on Climate Change will be submitted to the 133rd Session of the Programme Committee (16-20 May 2022) for discussion and to the 169th Session of the Council (13-17 June 2022) for endorsement.
4. Implementation of the Strategy will be outlined in a five-year Action Plan once the Strategy is endorsed by the FAO Council at its 169th Session.

II Council conclusions on the update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change¹

5. The Council noted document CL 168/21, *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change* and the associated, inclusive and consultative process.
6. The Council:
 - a) welcomed FAO's development of the new Strategy *inter alia* within the context of the evaluation of the existing Strategy, alignment with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and recognized the multilateral understanding agreed by members at the Glasgow UNFCCC COP 26 to boost efforts in enhancing ambition and action in relation to mitigation, adaptation, and finance in order to overcome the challenges of climate change;
 - b) stressed the need to align the new Strategy with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, its PPAs, and other related FAO Strategies and initiatives, for the Organization's contribution to the achievement of SDG 13 and for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;
 - c) underlined the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach and taking into account the goal of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, but rather adopt a fit-for-purpose principle considering national circumstances, the diverse contexts, specificities, priorities, synergies and capacities across regions, countries and the local level in developing the new Strategy;
 - d) stressed the importance of supporting developing countries in formulating and implementing Nationally Determined Contributions and relevant national plans, as appropriate, including via capacity building, technology transfer upon mutually agreed terms and financial resources *inter alia* to strengthen resilience building and adaptation, as well as mitigation to climate change;
 - e) highlighted that FAO's new Strategy on Climate Change should align with the SDGs based on the three dimensions of sustainable development and shared goals and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

¹ CL 168/21; CL 168/PV/3; CL 168/PV/4; CL 168/PV/5; CL 168/PV/8; CL 168/PV/9; CL 168/PV/10; CL 168/PV/11; CL 168/PV/12

and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including their principles, as relevant², the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, including Article 2.1 and 2.2 and the relevant paragraphs of the Glasgow Climate pact and notes in this regard 1/CP.26 paragraphs 5 and 6 and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Glasgow Climate Pact decisions, and 1/CP.26 paragraphs 17 and 18 and 1/CMA.3 paragraphs 22 and 23 from the Glasgow Climate Pact CMA decisions;

- f) highlighted the positive role of sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems as part of the solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change;
- g) underlined the need for a coordinated approach with all stakeholders, including the private sector, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- h) highlighted that the focus of the Strategy should be within FAO's mandate, to avoid duplication with other international organizations in terms of the relevance of agrifood systems, while addressing and responding to climate challenges, in line with FAO's mandate;
- i) requested the use of multilaterally agreed language in the Strategy;
- j) highlighted multilateral efforts on environmental protection and commitments to sustainable agriculture;
- k) welcomed the attention in the Strategy to sustainable forest management, nutritional needs, oceans, rivers and inland waters, biodiversity, food loss and waste, soil erosion and ecosystem-based approaches;
- l) exhorted the promotion within the new Strategy of the best available science and evidence-based decision-making for promoting solutions, innovations and good practices, including those which may be scaled up and have a lasting impact to achieve Zero Hunger and comprehensively address climate and sustainability goals;
- m) stressed the value of ensuring that the Strategy is socially inclusive and that gender considerations related to climate change are integrated;
- n) requested that the Strategy address disaster risk reduction, early-warning systems, strengthen resilience, adaptation and mitigation and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing countries;
- o) highlighted the importance of identifying financing mechanisms and innovative partnerships, including with the private sector and institutional partners, to tackle climate change in the context of agrifood systems to support developing countries, including Small Island Developing States; and
- p) encouraged Management's ambition to finalise the first draft of the Strategy and to clearly define the implementation process, deliverables and performance indicators, through its Action Plan;

7. Accordingly, the Council supported the outline and roadmap of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, and looked forward to continuing the inclusive process with Members on the development of this thematic strategy.

² In particular, those principles related to the paragraph on Adaptation.