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	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольствен ная и сельскохозяйств енная организация Объединенных	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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COUNCIL

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Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

Executive Summary

In keeping with Action no. 2.31 of the Immediate Plan of Action, the Council is kept abreast of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate to enable dialogue to be maintained with other Governing Bodies as appropriate, in particular the Governing Bodies of the Rome-based food and agriculture agencies.

Presentations will be made on the following topics at the 141st Session of Council:

- FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Cooperation on Food Safety - World Health Assembly Resolution
- FAO's participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Rural Women in 2012
- 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- World Water Forum and World Water Week
- Implications for FAO under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 16 (UNFCCC COP-16) held in Cancun, Mexico (November - December 2010)
- The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (The Hague, 31 October - 5 November 2011)

I. FAO/World Health Organization (WHO) Cooperation on Food Safety - World Health Assembly Resolution

1. The FAO/WHO cooperation on food safety with its different branches: scientific advice (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA), Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU), capacity building and standard setting (Codex Alimentarius Commission), is an example of successful long standing cooperation between two United Nations Organizations. The World Health Assembly reviews its work on food safety approximately every 10 years and in May 2010, the 63rd World Health Assembly (2010) adopted a Resolution on Advancing Food Safety Initiatives (WHA Resolution 63:

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA63-REC1/WHA63_REC1-en.pdf)

2. The resolution confirms the continuing serious threat of food-borne disease to the health of millions of people in the world, particularly those in developing countries with poor nutritional status and supports improving monitoring and reporting on the burden of food-borne and zoonotic diseases through strengthening of global networks including INFOSAN (International Food Safety Authorities Network) and improving the assessment, management and communications of food-borne and zoonotic risks. The resolution recognizes: (i) that the continued growth of global trade contributes to the risk of spread of pathogens and contaminants across national borders and the need for more efficient global sharing of food safety information; (ii) the important roles of FAO/WHO in support of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as the reference point for international food standards; (iii) the unique opportunity offered by the Commission to all countries to join the international community in formulating and harmonizing food standards and ensuring their global implementation and notes the increased participation, particularly of developing countries in the work of the Commission.

3. The resolution requests the Director-General of WHO to provide adequate and sustainable support for the joint expert bodies of FAO and WHO, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and INFOSAN. The resolution also called for the inclusion of food safety in the international debate on food crises and hunger emergencies, and technical support to Member States and international agencies to consider food safety, nutrition and food security issues in a comprehensive, integrated manner.

II. FAO's participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Rural Women in 2012

4. FAO is the lead agency for rural women in agriculture and food security and in collaboration with IFAD and WFP has been championing the cause of rural women. The proposal for 2012 follows a set of accomplishments achieved last year: the CSW Side Event in March 2010 "Supporting women producers to respond to the challenges of food insecurity"; the preparatory event that was held in April 2010 with regards to the ECOSOC 2010 Annual Ministerial Review; the July 2010 ECOSOC Substantive Session High Level Segment where FAO, IFAD and WFP delivered a joint statement on "implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regards to gender equality and the empowerment of women".

5. In 2011, SOFA (the State of Food and Agriculture) 2010-11 will focus on women in agriculture and provide new data on how much women contribute to agriculture; the meaning of the gender gap; what gender inequality costs society in lost agricultural outputs and food security; and how agricultural policies can close the gender gap.

6. In 2012, the Commission on the Status of Women will focus on rural women. This is a key opportunity for FAO to continue taking the lead especially after the completion of SOFA 2010-11. FAO will join with the other two Rome based food and agriculture agencies to ensure that the key lessons of the SOFA and the CSW 2011 on Gender, Science and Technology Forum are widely disseminated.

III. 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity

7. The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP), held from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, adopted a ten-year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to be implemented by Governments with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations. The Environment Management Group was invited to identify implementation measures across the United Nations system. Several “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” of the Strategic Plan are fundamental to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for food and agriculture, and, more generally, to poverty reduction and eradication of hunger.

8. The COP also adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The COP noted with appreciation Resolution 18/2009 through which the FAO Conference, at its 36th Session, had appealed to negotiators to take into account the special nature of agricultural biodiversity, in particular genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Nagoya Protocol explicitly recognizes the importance of genetic resources to food security, as well as the special nature of agricultural biodiversity and its distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions. The Protocol which also recognizes the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a complementary instrument, does not prevent its Parties from developing and implementing other relevant international agreements, including specialized access and benefit-sharing agreements, provided they are supportive of and do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and the Protocol. The Protocol encourages the development of model contractual clauses as well as the development, update and use of voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practises and/ or standards in relation to access and benefit-sharing.

9. The COP adopted decisions on, inter alia, inland waters and marine and coastal biodiversity, mountain biological diversity, protected areas, sustainable use, forest biodiversity, bio fuels and biodiversity, as well as on invasive alien species. The decision on agricultural biodiversity recognizes the lead role of FAO in supporting the implementation of the Convention’s programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. It notes with appreciation the ongoing work of FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the three international initiatives led by FAO, on soil biodiversity, pollinators and biodiversity for food and nutrition. The COP welcomed, in particular, the publication of “The Second Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” as “a solid technical base for the further development of the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources.” The Commission will consider the draft updated Global Plan of Action at its forthcoming 13th Regular Session (18-22 July 2011), for adoption by an International Technical Conference or the FAO Conference at its 38th session in 2013.

10. Following the invitation of the COP, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 65th Session, decided to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

IV. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

11. On 20 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 65th Session, called on the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to take the necessary next steps to establish an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The General Assembly requested UNEP to convene a plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity. Outstanding questions to be resolved include which organization(s) will establish and which country will host IPBES.

12. The request of the General Assembly followed a third ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting, convened by UNEP in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 June 2010. The “Busan outcome” adopted by the representatives of Governments present at the meeting recommends that IPBES should strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services and act as an independent intergovernmental body administered by one or more existing United Nations

organizations, agencies, funds or programmes. IPBES assessments should be scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed, and should identify uncertainties. Information provided by IPBES should be policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive. IPBES should also support policy formulation and implementation, as well as prioritize key capacity-building needs to improve the science-policy interface at appropriate levels. The Busan outcome has been welcomed by the G8 Muskoka Declaration and the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13. In the light of FAO's mandate as well as its experience and long-standing role in relation to periodic assessments of the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture and other assessments relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem services, representatives of Governments participating in the IPBES consultations have identified FAO as an important player and possible key partner for IPBES. The Busan outcome therefore encourages the Governing Bodies of FAO (as well as of UNEP and UNESCO) to further consider their roles in the process.

V. World Water Forum and World Water Week

14. FAO has participated significantly in the previous World Water Fora (WWF) hosted in different cities every three years (WWF1 in Marrakech, 1997; WWF2 in The Hague, 2000; WWF3 in Kyoto, 2003; WWF4 in New Mexico, 2006; WWF5 in Istanbul, 2009).

15. The participation of FAO is relevant in order to bring the voice of "agriculture water" to fora which are mostly dominated by "urban water" (drinking water and sanitation). Building on the success of FAO in giving agriculture more prominence during the last Forum in Istanbul, and following a meeting between the President of the World Water Council (WWC) and the Director-General of FAO, the Natural Resources Department (NR) has taken on-board the task to coordinate the thematic priority on "Water and Food Security" for the 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseille, France, in March 2012.

16. Every year the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) organizes the World Water Week (WWW), an important event where professionals, NGOs, scientists, UN Organizations and governmental representatives meet to address water-related key challenges. It also represents a traditional venue for hosting the UN-Water Senior Management Meeting.

17. Due to the high level, a high number and range of participants, the WWW represents a venue for international and media resonance for launching key messages. FAO has participated in the WWW since 2006 (from 2007 to 2009 as chair of UN-Water), in 2010 as co-convener of Seminars related to the theme "Water Quality and Waste Water Management":

- Reducing the Risks of Wastewater Irrigation: Strategies and Incentives
- Launch of the 2nd Edition of the Information Kit on the Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture
- World Water Day 2011 - Urban Water Management: Key Issues and Priorities for Action

18. These events were convened together with UN-Water, World Health Organization (WHO), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the World Bank. This year the following events are being organized:

- World Water Day 2012: Water and Food Security: Call for solutions
- World Water Forum 6: Policy messages from the water and food security consultation process
- The State of the World's Land and Water Resources (SOLAW): Systems at risk
- Which water quality for which uses? Call upon regulators to speak.

19. These seminars are convened together with other partners (UN-Water, IFAD, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), (World Water Council) WWC, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and others).

VI. Implications for FAO under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 16 (UNFCCC COP-16) held in Cancun, Mexico (November -December 2010)

20. Within the Cancun agreement key points were identified that have a direct impact on FAO's mandate:

- i) Formal recognition that current emissions pledges need to rise;
- ii) Decision on Long-Term Cooperative Action, including:
 - Enhanced action on adaptation (Cancun Adaptation Framework)
 - Enhanced action on mitigation;
 - Improved assessments nationally and internationally;
 - Registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions; Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) including: potential mitigation actions related to all types of forests for example in the agriculture–forest interface;
 - Finance (Green Fund, 100 billion USD/year by 2020 for developing countries against climate impact and for low-carbon development. World Bank to be interim trustee)
- iii) Extension of Kyoto protocol was postponed
- iv) Agriculture work programme was postponed

Other events in Cancun of relevance to FAO's mandate are:

- Strong focus on agriculture and food security in many side events;
 - Agriculture Day and Forest Day were strongly linked with over 2000 participants in both events.
- v) Key considerations for FAO's continued work on climate change are listed below:
 - a) Establishment of the Green Fund raised expectations of FAO's contribution and involvement, particularly in adaptation. The on-going and cross-cutting work to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Framework Programme in FAO could be one starting point.
 - b) The agreement on REDD+ will take countries towards an implementation phase. The UN REDD Programme provides a basis for moving ahead. It is likely that requests for support from countries will increase. It is likely that FAO's role will be increasingly knowledge based
 - c) The Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture Programme (MICCA) will provide the important lead in the development and agriculture work programme. This includes pilots in countries, knowledge base for agriculture mitigation practices, and assessments of emissions and mitigation potentials in the agriculture sectors
 - d) FAO's involvement in the "Climate Services" partnership, for example has improved observations, analyses and decision support – with a focus for FAO on food and agriculture issues is of strategic importance.
 - e) Energy issues, both energy from agriculture and energy consumed in agricultural sectors, will increasingly be in focus.

VII. The Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (The Hague, 31 October - 5 November 2011)

21. The 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, May 2009), the FAO World Summit on Food Security (Rome, November 2009) and other fora, have noted the urgent need to address the closely related challenges of food insecurity, development and climate change, which intersect in the agriculture sector and place greater demands on the ecosystem upon which the sector depends.

22. The Hague Conference brought together participants from governments, international and regional organizations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, civil society, farmers and the scientific community to develop a Roadmap for Action on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change. The objective of the roadmap was to help agriculture deliver “triple wins”, across development, food security and climate change. The roadmap identifies the areas that need to be addressed and contains commitments and investments for linking agriculture-related investments, policies, and measures with the transition to climate smart growth.

23. The Roadmap for Action is considered to be a “living” document as it will be in constant evolution and will be used to further initiate and broaden the partnerships and its activities, with inclusive engagement by all stakeholders. The Roadmap does not prejudge, but rather supports and contributes to, the outcomes of other international processes such as:

- The Committee on World Food Security;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- Convention on Biological Diversity;
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20 process.

24. The Government of the Netherlands continues to support the process in the lead up to a follow-up conference to be hosted in Viet Nam in 2012.