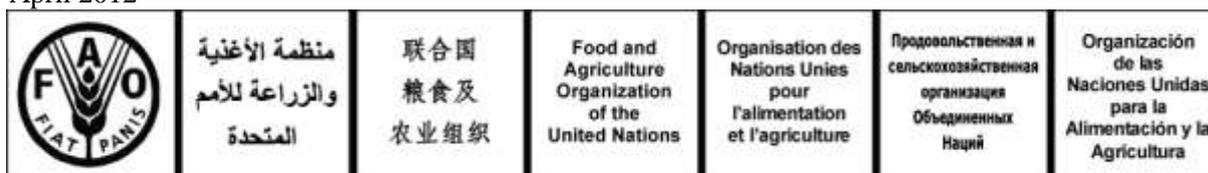


April 2012



TWENTY-EIGHTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Baku, Azerbaijan, 19 and 20 April 2012

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

I. Introductory Items

1. **Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of a Rapporteur:**
for decision
2. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable:** *for decision* (ERC/12/1 Rev.2 and ERC/12/INF/2 Rev.2)
3. **Statement by the Director-General:** (ERC/12/INF/4)
4. **Statement by the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council** (ERC/12/INF/16)
5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 27th Regional Conference for Europe**
(ERC/12/INF/5)

The statement of the Chairperson of the 27th ERC will provide a brief overview on the outcome of the deliberations of the 37th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 25 June – 2 July 2011) and the 141st FAO Council (11-15 April 2011) on matters related to the European Region. The Chairperson will also provide an update on the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal.

6. **Outcomes of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and update of the CFS reform** (ERC/12/INF/12 Rev.1; ERC/12/INF/13; ERC/12/INF/14 and CFS:2011/7)

The Chair of the CFS will update on global and regional initiatives and linkages with CFS as well as several policy round tables, also includes global coordination and support for national process such as mapping food security and nutrition actions at country level. Within the item the Chair will also report regarding the outcomes from the multistakeholder consultations within the Regional Conference, which is taking place on Tuesday 17 April am in Baku. This will enable regional stakeholders to engage in two major initiatives – the process to map food security and nutrition actions and the preparation of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition.

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY ISSUES

7. (Ministerial Round Table) Policies for Food Security in the Region: Challenges and Perspectives – Food outlook towards 2050: *for discussion and decision* (ERC/12/2)

The European Region has experienced a number of severe shocks in recent years, with record high oil prices, agricultural commodity price spikes, dramatic droughts, food security fears and resultant trade restrictions, not to mention the most serious global economic recession since the 1930s. The greatest visible impact has been on the poor, especially in developing countries. Agriculture has shown remarkable resilience, particularly in the OECD area, with strong supply responses to high prices and continuing, albeit dampened, growth in demand during the crisis. At the beginning of 2010, a degree of normalcy returned to many markets, but many commodity prices began rising from the middle of the year, continuing into 2011. Many governments are concerned about the potential for further significant shocks to such key factors as energy prices, environmental degradation, scarcity of resources, exchange rates, and the macroeconomic performance of key countries and regions. They are also concerned about the consequences that such shocks could have on long-term food security and on commodity market volatility.

Lately, there has been much debate lately regarding policies aimed at addressing higher and more volatile prices on world, regional and country level markets in the short term. Many of these policies have been analyzed in the Guide for Policy and Programmatic Actions at Country Level to Address High Food Prices (FAO, 2011). While bolstering safety nets, for example, may succeed in protecting the poor from short-term food insecurity, many other policies pursued in the Region have increased market volatility and make it more difficult for people to afford enough nutritious food. Examples of such policies are trade bans, export quotas and export tariffs.

The main reasons that the prices of agricultural commodities have been increasing since 2005 are tighter international demand-supply balance, combined with low stock levels and short term supply shocks. Tighter commodity markets have prompted most forecasters to project higher prices for agricultural commodities in the medium term. In the longer term, rising agricultural commodity prices will provide incentives for higher production, which will gradually ease the situation on world commodity markets and should bring commodity prices down. Based on observations, it is believed that there is a broad scope for a strong supply response to higher prices in the region. However, it is important that in parallel to this development, its implications regarding the environment, availability and scarcity of resources, socio-economic effects for both rural and urban areas as well as food safety and food security are taken into consideration. This will help to ensure sustainability within the framework of the MDGs.

The realization that higher and more volatile commodity prices lay ahead has sparked interest in ensuring food security for the poor for the foreseeable future. Higher commodity prices also increase the importance of sound projections for gauging likely developments in sustainable food and agricultural production in the coming decades. With this in mind the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia will prepare a study which makes projections on the area that will be harvested, yields, production, prices and net trade for the main agricultural commodities of crops and livestock of the European Region up to 2050. The study will provide estimates on food consumption, under-nutrition, obesity and land resources over a long-term time horizon for several decades based on the FAO/OECD model with regional specifications. Forecasts will be provided for several groups of countries and Sub-regions of the European Region (pan-European). The study will serve as a basis for the background paper presented to the European Regional Conference. By altering the main assumptions, the effects of the required changes will be illustrated.

The ERC document will draw on expertise from FAO technical departments and other international institutions related to environmental and socio-economic impacts as well as

sustainability (e.g. OECD, IFAD, WFP, and WB). Together with the baseline forecasts from the study, based on assumptions about the most likely evolution of agricultural fundamentals, the paper will make recommendations related to sustainable agricultural, rural development, food security, trade and investment policies, institutions and processes for the region as well as priorities of work and the institutional set-up of FAO in the Region in the coming years.

Based on the main findings, specific short and long-term recommendations aimed at enhancing regional and global food security, policy actions, institutional setup (including research and development and technology transfer), and processes will be proposed for the European Regional Conference to make decisions on.

Following the outcomes of the 2011 Committee on World Food Security and the G20 process, recommendations are likely to specifically address increasing sustainable agricultural production and productivity for the benefit of the rural livelihood and consumers, improving information and agricultural market transparency and coordinating actions related to price volatility and food security for all, especially the most vulnerable.

8. **Summary of the outcomes of the debate of the Technical Commissions in the Region including the 37th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**

- **Report from the outcome of the debate of the 37th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA): for discussion and decision (ERC/12/LIM/1- ERC/12/LIM/3)**

The rapporteur of the 37th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), which takes place on the 17/18 April 2012, will provide a summary report from the deliberations of the session.

- **Summary report of the recommendations of the European Forestry Commission (EFC) and Importance of Forestry for the Region: for information (ERC/12/INF/6 and ERC/12/INF/7 Rev.1)**

The report of the Regional Forestry Commission will be presented to the ERC together with the relevant regional COFO outcomes, highlighting policy and regulatory issues including the future role of forestry in the European Region.

- **Summary report of the recommendations of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC), the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission, and Importance of Fisheries for the Region: for information (ERC/12/INF/8 Rev 1)**

The report of the Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission and the other regional bodies such as the Central Asia Fisheries Commission will be presented to the ERC, highlighting policy and regulatory issues including the future role of fisheries and aquaculture in the European Region.

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

9. **Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2010-2011, Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13 and Areas of Priority Action for the Region for the Biennium 2014–15 taking into account the discussions and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions: for decision (ERC/12/LIM/2 and ERC/12/INF/15)**

The ERC discussion of this item will take into consideration the findings and recommendations of the 37th Session of the ECA – based on the function of the ECA as a preparatory meeting – as well as discussions and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions. The ERC will consider the actions that have been taken on the previous ERC recommendations and the implementation performance of the PWB in the Region during 2010-11, and make recommendations on priorities for implementation of the PWB in the Region during 2012 – 2013, including the regional results. The ERC will also recommend priority areas of FAO action in the Region for the biennium 2014 -15 on the basis of both a pre-session paper prepared by the Secretariat and discussions with the member countries.

10. **Update on the status and vision of Decentralization in the Region** *for discussion and decision (ERC/12/3) and (ERC/12/INF/9)*

Decentralization was discussed at the 27th ERC in 2010 and the ERC requested that the Secretariat prepare a document outlining the present structure, staffing and funding of the Decentralized Offices. Such an overview would allow a better judgement to be made on how to best use the available resources at country, sub-regional and regional levels. Decentralization has also been the subject of discussions at various meetings during the course of 2011, and the Council has requested that the Regional Conferences in 2012 provide views on the structure, staffing, operation and funding of DOs. In addition, the CoC-IEE report, endorsed by the FAO conference, recommends that the Regional Conferences in 2012 review FAO's country coverage in their Regions, with a view to enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level. Accordingly, under the item a management paper will be presented for review by the member countries. The final recommendations of the Regional Conference will be forwarded to the FAO Council 2012 on the most suitable structure and skill mix of the DOs network in the Region.

The report FAO Renewal – Transition to a More Dynamic Approach in 2012, describes the new direction for FAO renewal, focusing on realization of benefits, acceleration of IPA actions in 2012, and a mainstreaming of the renewal into the work programme of the Organization. Regional Conferences are invited to provide observations on issues specific to each region. These are an essential feedback for successful completion of the renewal process, and will be used to inform management decisions on the way forward.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

11. **Multiyear Programme of Work (MYPOW):** *for decision (ERC/12/4)*

IPA Actions 2.70 to 2.7.2 require all governing bodies, including the regional conferences, to prepare MYPOWs. The draft MYPOW will be presented to the Regional Conference for their endorsement and approval.

12. **Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conference for Europe:** *for decision*

The ERC has become a governing body of FAO (FAO Reform 2008). Therefore, the Secretariat will present a document following a consultation process with the regional groups, providing details of the rules of procedure for the Regional Conference for Europe in line with the FAO Reform. The Member countries will review/decide on the draft Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conference for Europe.

13. **Date and Place of the Twenty-ninth FAO Regional Conference for Europe:** *for decision*

Member countries are encouraged to provide suggestions for the location and date of the 29th FAO Regional Conference for Europe.

14. **Any other business**

Adoption of the Report

A draft report will be introduced by the Rapporteur. The draft report with conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Conference will be reviewed, discussed and eventually endorsed.

Closure of the Conference