

REPORT

Tunis
Tunisia
24-28 March
2014

Twenty-Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa



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FAO Member Nations in the Africa Region

Algeria	Eritrea	Namibia
Angola	Ethiopia	Niger
Benin	Gabon	Nigeria
Botswana	Gambia	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Burundi	Guinea	Senegal
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cape Verde	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Somalia
Chad	Liberia	South Africa
Comoros	Libya	South Sudan
Congo	Madagascar	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Swaziland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali	Togo
Djibouti	Mauritania	Tunisia
Egypt	Mauritius	Uganda
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
	Mozambique	Zambia
		Zimbabwe

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa

First	- Lagos, Nigeria, 3 – 12 November 1960
Second	- Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 10 November 1962
Third	- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3 – 15 September 1964
Fourth	- Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9 – 19 November 1966
Fifth	- Kampala, Uganda, 18 – 29 November 1968
Sixth	- Algiers, Algeria, 17 September – 3 October 1970
Seventh	- Libreville, Gabon, 14 – 30 September 1972
Eighth	- Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1 – 17 August 1974
Ninth	- Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 – 12 November 1976
Tenth	- Arusha, Tanzania, 18 – 28 September 1978
Eleventh	- Lomé, Togo, 16 – 27 June 1980
Twelfth	- Algiers, Algeria, 22 September – 2 October 1982
Thirteenth	- Harare, Zimbabwe, 16 – 25 July 1984
Fourteenth	- Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 11 September 1986
Fifteenth	- Moka, Mauritius, 26 April – 4 May 1988
Sixteenth	- Marrakech, Morocco, 11 – 15 June 1990
Seventeenth	- Accra, Ghana, 20 – 24 July 1992
Eighteenth	- Gaborone, Botswana, 24 – 28 October 1994
Nineteenth	- Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 16 – 20 April 1996
Twentieth	- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 February 1998
Twenty-first	- Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21 – 25 February 2000
Twenty-second	- Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002
Twenty-third	- Johannesburg, South Africa, 1- 5 March 2004
Twenty-fourth	- Bamako, Mali, 30 January – 3 February 2006
Twenty-fifth	- Nairobi, Kenya, 16 – 20 June 2008
Twenty-sixth	- Luanda, Angola, 6 – 7 May 2010
Twenty-seventh	- Brazzaville, Congo, 23 – 27 April 2012
Twenty-eighth	- Tunis, Tunisia, 24 – 28 March 2014

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS
MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- d) Underlined the importance of the Regional, Sub-Regional and Country Offices in supporting programme delivery ;
- e) Encouraged continued delegation of authority to FAORs to lead planning and delivery of country programmes ;
- f) Underlined the need to ensure that decentralized offices are effectively capacitated in terms of human and financial resources and decision-making to reflect decentralization priorities;
- g) Urged FAO management to endeavour that future core budget allocation proposals better reflect the priority of decentralization in Africa;
- h) Encouraged FAO to strengthen recruitment of female professionals;
- i) Requested FAO to maintain a focus on technical partnerships with Regional Economic Communities within the scope of specific areas of collaboration for which resources are available.

C. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

29. The Regional Conference:

- b) Endorsed the measures pursued to reinforce capabilities within the Regional Office, Sub-regional offices and Decentralized Offices Network through a Skill mix review;
- c) Recommended actions to strengthen the capacity of Country Offices, and the selection of FAOR with requisite technical and managerial competencies;
- e) Welcomed the strategic use of TCPs in line with Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), which have been completed or waiting endorsement in 45 countries, aligned to the reviewed Strategic Framework, and recommended the completion of CPFs in the remaining two (2) countries;
- g) Emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of the Regional and sub-Regional offices in the area of Resilience;
- i) Urged the Regional Office in Africa to expedite the remaining measures to complete decentralization and to strengthen the Decentralized Offices Network;
- j) Recognized the central role of the Director General in supporting effective decentralization and his efforts to eliminate hunger and assure food security and nutrition in Africa.

IV. Other Matters

A. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Africa Regional Conference

30. The Regional Conference discussed the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) and approved the revised MYPOW 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

B. Concluding Items

List of Proposed Topics for the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

33. The Conference requested the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives, the Secretariat of the Regional Conference and the Chairperson of the 28th Africa Regional Conference to examine the proposals in order to make a final decision on the theme for the 29th Regional Conference.

Date and Place of the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

35. The Regional Conference agreed to hold the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa in Cote d'Ivoire in 2016. The date will be agreed jointly by the host country and the secretariat of the Regional Conference. The Conference thanked Cote d'Ivoire for their offer to host the conference.

Any other matters

36. The Regional Conference endorsed the recommendation of the 23rd Session of the African Commission for Agriculture Statistics to establish a Global Commission on Agricultural Statistics.

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

A. Africa Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Development

19. The Regional Conference:

i) Recommended Member States to:

- i. Create an enabling environment for youth within the overall agricultural and rural development policies and programmes including youth access to productive resources, notably to land and to financial resources for increased investment;
- ii. Foster Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) to capture synergies between larger agro-enterprises and small-scale agro-industries led by youth and women;
- iii. Invest in technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills of youth, enhancing youth participation in professional producer/marketing organizations and integrating ICT into agriculture;
- iv. Continue to develop policies that encourage rural transformation and development of commercial activities across the agricultural value chain that would encourage youth to engage and remain in agriculture;
- v. Allocate dedicated financial resources for youth employment within agricultural and rural development programmes, particularly investments in the technical and entrepreneurial capacity of the youth and their access to key productive resources, notably land and finance;
- vi. Facilitate engagement of youth in agricultural development programmes and create consultative processes for dialogue.

j) Recommended FAO to:

- i. Facilitate south-south cooperation and experience sharing between countries to up-scale good practices in youth employment in agriculture and to support Members to develop projects that support youth employment;
- ii. Strengthen partnership with civil society and non-governmental organisations and the private sector to enhance youth employment in agriculture.

B. State of Food and Agriculture in the Region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) Implementation with specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming

21. The Regional Conference

e) Recommended Member States to:

- i. Integrate nutrition goals and nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments into agriculture sector plans;
- ii. Re-commit to make increased public investments in agriculture in respect of the Maputo Declaration for broad-based agricultural development;
- iii. Intensify their efforts to address the binding constraints to improved productivity, higher incomes and food security of smallholder farms and family farms. These efforts include sustained investment in agricultural research, integration of social protection programmes, support to farmer organizations and cooperatives to achieve economies of scale, development of financial instruments, targeted social protection programmes and risk management instruments to increase resilience;
- iv. Promote inclusiveness and joint engagement of state and non-state actors at national and local levels to foster accountability, transparency, performance, and competitiveness of the agri-food system and commodity value chains.

f) Recommend FAO to:

- i. Continue to support Member Countries and Regional Economic Communities in strengthening capacities to formulate and implement CAADP Compacts, Investments Plans and Business Meetings, including decentralized actions that respond to local priorities;
- ii. Support the integration of risk management and climate change considerations in CAADP formulation and implementation;
- iii. Enhance efforts to strengthen market integration, within the CAADP framework, at national, regional and continental levels.
- iv. Analyse and widely disseminate the procedures and methods for estimating public expenditures allocated to the agriculture sector in order to clarify and facilitate tracking of the Maputo Declaration;
- v. Strengthen country and regional efforts to improve the formulation and implementation of legal frameworks governing land tenure;
- vi. Support national and regional capacities for agricultural research and technology development.

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The Twenty-Eighth FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 24 to 28 March 2014. The Regional Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers' Meeting from 24 to 26 March and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 27 to 28 March.
2. The Regional Conference was attended by 303 Delegates from 49 Member countries of which 41 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, 21 Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, 3 Observer Nations, 1 other Observer, 2 UN Agencies, 17 Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, and 13 Inter-Governmental Organizations.

Inaugural Ceremonies

3. The Senior Officers' Meeting was opened with addresses by His Excellency Mr Lassaad Lachaal, the Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Tunisia and Mr. Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for the FAO Regional Office for Africa. His Excellency the Minister welcomed the participants and officially opened the meeting. Mr. Bukar Tijani welcomed participants and thanked the Republic of Tunisia for the support in organizing and hosting the meeting. He acknowledged the support of the Chairperson of the 27th Africa Regional Conference, the Independent Chair of the Council and the Chairperson of the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives at FAO. Mr. Bukar highlighted the importance of the Conference theme, "*African Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development*", particularly in the context of the 2014 African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security and the United Nations International Year of Family Farming. He underscored the importance for FAO to focus on the implementation of the new Strategic Framework, the Regional Initiatives and the Country Programming Frameworks in order to achieve tangible impact at country, sub-regional and continental levels. He encouraged delegates to provide guidance and concrete recommendations for consideration by Ministers.
4. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 27 March and was opened by His Excellency, Mr. Mehdi Jomaa, Head of the Government of Tunisia.
5. The Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, provided a welcome address. The Meeting was also addressed by H.E. Wilfred Ngirwa the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, H.E. Ambassador Gerda Verburg, the Chairperson of CFS, H.E. Mr. Rigobert Maboundou, the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Congo, Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of ARC and H.E. Mr Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and appointment of Rapporteurs

6. Delegates endorsed H.E. Mr Lassaad Lachaal, the Minister for Agriculture, Republic of Tunisia to chair this Session. The Chairperson thanked Delegates for the election of Tunisia to chair the Session of the Twenty-Eighth Session and FAO for the excellent preparations in organising the meeting, and requested M'Nasri Belgacem, Director General of Studies and Agricultural Development, Ministry of Agriculture to chair the Session of the Senior Officers' Meeting.

7. The Conference elected the following countries as Vice Chairs of the Conference: 1st Vice-Chair: Côte d'Ivoire and 2nd Vice-Chair: Zambia. The Conference appointed as Rapporteur: Kenya and co-rapporteur: Equatorial Guinea.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

8. The Conference adopted the Agenda which is given in Appendix A. Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in Appendix B.

Statement by the Director-General, FAO

9. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, welcomed the participating Ministers and Dignitaries to the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Conference. The Director-General reported that FAO, in response to the request of the 27th FAO Regional Conference for Africa for increased solidarity among African countries to achieve food security, established the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, co-led with the African Union, and housed in FAO. He also expressed satisfaction that in January 2014, the Executive Council of the African Union endorsed a Declaration to End Hunger by 2025. He emphasized the important role to be played by Civil Society and the Private Sector to translate the Declaration in concrete actions to end hunger in Africa by 2025. He recognized that while Africa has made important progress in terms of the MDG hunger targets and is home to most of the world's fastest growing economies, the challenge is to translate this growth into social inclusion, for which youth and family farms must remain at the centre of the African agenda and strongly supported. He noted the positive results in strengthening decentralized offices, in completing Country Programming Frameworks and in increasing funding for Technical Cooperation Projects. He explained that the Africa region has developed three Regional Initiatives for coordinated delivery of products and services to achieve impact in response to country priorities. In acknowledging the progress made by countries and regional economic communities in completing CAADP Compacts and Agriculture Investment Plans, he underlined the importance of investments that safeguard the rights of vulnerable communities and contribute to sustainable development. He welcomed Members' partnership and guidance to improve FAO's performance in the region.

Statement by the Head of Government, Republic of Tunisia

10. His Excellency, Mr. Mehdi Jomaa, Head of the Government of Tunisia, welcomed delegates to the 28th African Regional Conference and to Tunis. He emphasized the role and importance of youth in Tunisian agriculture, recalling that many measures have been taken for smallholder farmers, particularly with respect to agricultural credit and support for youth entrepreneurship and business incubators. He underscored the importance of providing opportunities to young people and changing the image of agriculture to make it more attractive to youth. He stressed the critical role played by small farms and family farms which represent nearly 87% of all farms and contribute to food security. In addition, he emphasized the importance of capacity building, financial and technical support and access to resources for small producers; facilitating market access and implementation of integrated, participatory approaches to development are equally important measures. He emphasized the importance of implementing national strategies that encourage inter-African cooperation and exchange of experiences.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

11. H.E. Mr. Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, addressed the Conference, stressing the new role of the Regional Conferences as Governing Bodies

which report to the FAO Council and Conference and other reform measures, including the ongoing Independent Review of Governance Reform.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

12. H.E. Rigobert Maboundou, Minister for Agriculture, the Republic of Congo, delivered the statement of the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa. In doing so, he reminded the Conference about the recommendations of the Twenty-Seventh Session, and briefed the Delegates on activities undertaken by the Regional Office as a follow up to the implementation of these recommendations.

Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

13. The Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), H.E. Ambassador Gerda Verburg reported on the progress made by CFS over the past two years and its relevance to the Africa Region. She also briefed the Conference on some of the on-going key CFS activities, and urged all stakeholders to engage actively in ongoing CFS multi-stakeholder consultative processes, and to implement CFS policy recommendations and guidelines.

Statement by the CEO, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency

14. On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma, the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, addressed the Conference. He noted that 2014 commemorates the 10th anniversary of CAADP, the African Union Year of African Agriculture and Food Security and the United Nations International Year for Family Farming. He highlighted the success of CAADP in fostering political alignment and reclaiming ownership of the agricultural policy agenda by African States and citizens. He recalled that Africa would only achieve its goals by thorough handling of natural capital, reducing inequalities, increasing capacities, empowering women and youth and creating wealth and a conducive investment environment for farmers. He advocated for increased public investment, providing public goods to address market failures, to promote inclusiveness and to catalyse investment, particularly for African smallholder farmers who invest annually \$100 billion in their farms despite a virtual lack of functional credit markets. Key actions to sustaining the development of momentum for the next decade include a food sovereignty strategy to reduce dependence on volatile and uncertain regional markets. He concluded in stressing the importance of an enabling and inclusive economic environment, regional cooperation and strengthening evidence-based, policy decision-making and institutional capacities to support Africa's vision of an agriculture-led growth and development.

Statement by the Representative of the Civil Society Regional Consultation

15. The Representative of the Civil Society Regional Consultation, Ms Elizabeth Atangana of Pan-Africa Farmers' Organizations presented the main outcomes of the CSO consultation held on 21 to 22 March 2014. She made the following recommendations : increased political will for the eradication of hunger in Africa by year 2025; enhanced African youth involvement in farming and rural entrepreneurship; accelerated implementation and improved evaluation and monitoring mechanisms of the CAADP processes; adequate implementation of the CFS thematic report recommendations; a more inclusive, coherent and transparent FAO decentralization in Africa; and finally, successful implementation of the United Nations International Year for Family Farming 2014. The Representative presented the Declaration by the Civil Society Organisations ([Appendix C](#)).

Statement by the Secretary-General, the XIV World Forestry Congress

16. The Secretary-General, Ms Hester Obisi, of the World Forestry Congress 2015 invited participants to the World Forestry Congress (WFC) which will take place in Durban, South Africa on 7-11 September 2015. She highlighted the importance of the sustainable use and management of forestry resources for food security, employment and livelihoods.

Statements by the sub-regional representatives on Country and Regional Needs

17. Following the Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting, Representatives of each sub-region presented a summary statement of their sub-regional consultations, identifying their future needs and priorities.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

A. Africa Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Development.

18. The Regional Conference considered the document (ARC/14/2) on Africa Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Development.

19. The Regional Conference:

- a) Noted that the on-going demographic transitions offer enormous potential for agricultural development for African youth;
- b) Recognized the importance of harnessing the productive potential of the youth for the development of agriculture and rural development in Africa;
- c) Acknowledged the growing agri-food market in Africa, expected to reach US\$ 1 trillion by 2030, as a major driver to modernize agriculture into a sector that is attractive to young people;
- d) Identified several challenges for enhancing youth participation in agriculture including: insufficient agricultural and rural development infrastructure; low levels of profitability vis-à-vis the harsh working conditions; difficulties in access to productive resources, in particular to land and finance; and the growing divide between youth aspirations and the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector;
- e) Acknowledged the importance of creating an enabling environment for engagement of youth in agricultural and rural development policies and programmes.
- f) Shared experiences on measures taken by some countries in the region to encourage and maintain youth interest in the agriculture sector. Measures being implemented in various countries include:
 - enabling access to credit, agricultural inputs and markets; professional and technical training in agriculture production and value chain processes; mentoring and coaching; rural infrastructure development; land tenure arrangements that allow youth access to productive resources such as land and finance, as well as creation of youth agro-enterprises.

- g) Underlined the importance of the role of the private sector in investing in and supporting smaller actors like youth entrepreneurs across the agricultural value chain.
- h) Recognized that the insufficient allocation of funds to support youth-related initiatives represents an important constraint and explanatory factor of the waning interest of youth in agriculture.
- i) Recommended Member States to:
 - i. Create an enabling environment for youth within overall agricultural and rural development policies and programmes including youth access to productive resources, notably to land and to financial resources for increased investment;
 - ii. Foster Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to capture synergies between larger agro-enterprises and small-scale agro-industries led by youth and women;
 - iii. Invest in technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills of youth, enhancing youth participation in professional producer/marketing organizations and integrating ICT into agriculture;
 - iv. Continue to develop policies and programmes that encourage rural transformation and commercial development across the agricultural value chain which would encourage youth to engage and remain in agriculture;
 - v. Allocate dedicated financial resources for youth employment within agricultural and rural development programmes, particularly investments in the technical and entrepreneurial capacity of the youth and their access to key productive resources, notably land and finance;
 - vi. Facilitate engagement of youth in agricultural development programmes and create consultative processes for dialogue.
- j) Recommended FAO to:
 - i. Facilitate south-south cooperation and experience sharing between countries to up-scale good practices in youth employment in agriculture and to support Member countries to develop projects that support youth employment;
 - ii. Strengthen partnership with civil society and non-governmental organisations and the private sector to enhance youth employment in agriculture.

B. State of Food and Agriculture in the Region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) with specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming

20. The Regional Conference considered the document on the State of Food and Agriculture in the Africa Region and Comprehensive CAADP Implementation with specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming (ARC/14/3).

21. The Regional Conference:

- a) Focussed on the three key priority areas of actions needed to accelerate agricultural transformation and eradicate hunger in Africa:
 - i. Enhance the enabling environment for investment by the domestic private sector, including smallholder farmers;
 - ii. Invest in the enhancement of agricultural productivity and constructive engagement of youth, smallholder farmers and family farming;
 - iii. Determine how CAADP can more effectively contribute to building systemic capacity for monitoring and evaluation and results-oriented action.
- b) Reaffirmed the commitment to agricultural development and implementation of CAADP;
- c) Acknowledged the value of sharing experiences on policy development and programme implementation with a view to distilling lessons and identifying best practices for replication and scaling up;
- d) Recognized that integrated, multi-sector or territorial approaches including agriculture are critical to addressing the interrelated challenges affecting the rural economy and fostering broad-based socio-economic development;
- e) Recommended Member States to:
 - i. Integrate nutrition goals and nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments into agriculture sector plans;
 - ii. Re-commit to make increased public investments in agriculture in respect of the Maputo Declaration for broad-based agricultural development;
 - iii. Intensify their efforts to address the binding constraints to improved productivity, higher incomes and food security of smallholder farms and family farms. These efforts include sustained investment in agricultural research, integration of social protection programmes, support to farmer organizations and cooperatives to achieve economies of scale, development of financial instruments, targeted social protection programmes and risk management instruments to increase resilience;
 - iv. Promote inclusiveness and joint engagement of state and non-state actors at national and local levels to foster accountability, transparency, performance, and competitiveness of the agri-food system and commodity value chains.
- f) Recommend FAO to:
 - i. Continue to support Member Countries and Regional Economic Communities in strengthening capacities to formulate and implement CAADP Compacts, Investments Plans and Business Meetings, including decentralized actions that respond to local priorities;
 - ii. Support the integration of risk management and climate change considerations in CAADP formulation and implementation;
 - iii. Enhance efforts to strengthen market integration, within the CAADP framework, at national, regional and continental levels.
 - iv. Analyse and widely disseminate the procedures and methods for estimating public expenditures allocated to the agriculture sector in order to clarify and facilitate tracking of the Maputo Declaration;

- v. Strengthen country and regional efforts to improve the formulation and implementation of legal frameworks governing land tenure;
- vi. Support national and regional capacities for agricultural research and technology development.

C. Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow up actions at regional and country levels.

22. The Regional Conference reviewed recent developments and deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and considered appropriate follow-up actions in the Africa Region.

23. The Regional Conference:

- a) Recognized the importance of the CFS as the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all;
- b) Welcomed the endorsement by CFS and encouraged implementation and capacity development of the “Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition”; and,
- c) Encouraged member countries to engage actively in ongoing CFS multi-stakeholder consultative processes to develop “Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment” and an “Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises”;
- d) Supported the timely conclusion of the consultations that would allow for these processes to be endorsed at the 41st Session of CFS in October 2014.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa

24. The Regional Conference considered the report on priorities for FAO activities in Africa, covering achievements in 2012-13 and proposals for 2014-15 and beyond.

25. The Regional Conference:

- a) Appreciated the major actions carried out by FAO to address the regional priorities during the 2012-13 biennium, including actions taken in response to the recommendations of the previous Session;
- b) Took note of the lessons learned in 2013 from FAO Regional Initiatives on rural poverty reduction and increased resilience;
- c) Endorsed the relevance of the existing regional priorities for FAO’s work in the region, noting that the regional priorities were closely aligned with FAO’s new Strategic Objectives and in support of actions to contribute to the African Union efforts to end hunger by 2025;

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- d) Supported the focus areas of work and the three Regional Initiatives: i) Renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of CAADP; ii) Improving and sustaining production intensification through integrated management of agricultural landscapes; and iii) Building resilience in the drylands of Africa, as a means to further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and for resource mobilisation within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017;
- e) Underscored the importance for FAO to support national and continental efforts to improve the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of the rice value chain through an African Rice Initiative ;
- f) Underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization in order to realise the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework;
- g) Emphasized the need to mobilize resources in the region, including through South South Cooperation and partnerships, to implement the Regional Initiatives and the Country Programming Frameworks.
- h) Expressed satisfaction with the launch of the African Solidarity Trust Fund and encouraged Members to contribute to its funding;
- i) Encouraged FAO and Member Countries to use Country Programming Frameworks to address national priority areas of work and to monitor and report on results;
- j) Noted the proposal of the African Union to create an "African Food Safety Authority" and encouraged Member Countries and FAO to support this process;
- k) Recommended FAO to:
- i. Strengthen gender mainstreaming and programmes in support of women and youth;
 - ii. Address the regional aspects of and spillovers from national crises;
 - iii. Strengthen implementation of diverse types of social protection programmes such as school feeding in order to improve nutrition and livelihoods and to introduce agriculture in schools;
 - iv. Strengthen national and regional capacities in agricultural statistics, monitoring and evaluation and in the areas of information and communication;
 - v. Facilitate the dissemination of agricultural information to Member countries through improved information networks.

B. Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional office for Africa.

26. The Regional Conference considered the document on the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional offices for Africa (ARC/14/6) and the Management Response

27. The Regional Conference:

- a) Acknowledged the excellent quality and positive outcome of the Evaluation of Decentralization as well as the constructive response of FAO management to the report recommendations;
- b) Highlighted the progress made in the Decentralised Offices in the Region and stressed the centrality of the Country for FAO in the region;
- c) Expressed satisfaction with the focus of Country Programming Frameworks to address country priorities and the quality of FAO Representatives to deliver programmes and results;
- d) Underlined the importance of the Regional, Sub-Regional and Country Offices in supporting programme delivery ;
- e) Encouraged continued delegation of authority to FAORs to lead planning and delivery of country programmes ;
- f) Underlined the need to ensure that decentralized offices are effectively capacitated in terms of human and financial resources and decision-making to reflect decentralization priorities;
- g) Urged FAO management to endeavour that future core budget allocation proposals better reflect the priority of decentralization in Africa;
- h) Encouraged FAO to strengthen recruitment of female professionals;
- i) Requested FAO to maintain a focus on technical partnerships with Regional Economic Communities within the scope of specific areas of collaboration for which resources are available.

C. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

28. The Regional Conference considered the document on Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network in Africa, reporting on actions taken in 2012-13 and those planned for 2014-15.

29. The Regional Conference:

- a) Appreciated the progress made in strengthening Decentralized Offices in the region, and the support and guidance received from Members in the successful implementation of decentralization, in response to the twenty-seventh Regional Conference;
- b) Endorsed the measures pursued to reinforce capabilities within the Regional Office, Sub-regional offices and Decentralized Offices Network through a Skill mix review;

- c) Recommended actions to strengthen the capacity of Country Offices, and the selection of FAOR with requisite technical and managerial competencies;
- d) Noted progress made in integrating emergency and development activities, and the appointment of Deputy FAO Representatives in five countries, with 4 more Deputy FAORs to be recruited;
- e) Welcomed the strategic use of TCPs in line with Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), which have been completed or waiting endorsement in 45 countries, aligned to the reviewed Strategic Framework, and recommended the completion of CPFs in the remaining 2 countries;
- f) Recognized the important progress made in the establishment of the FAO Partnership and Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) programmes, and the increased number of funding opportunities within the region, including the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund and increased collaboration with Regional Economic Commissions;
- g) Emphasized the need to strengthen the capacity of the Regional and sub-Regional offices in the area of Resilience;
- h) Appreciated the on-going strengthening of the oversight of Decentralized Offices, through internal and external review;
- i) Urged the Regional Office in Africa to expedite the remaining measures to complete decentralization and to strengthen the Decentralized Offices Network;
- j) Recognized the central role of the Director General in supporting effective decentralization and his efforts to eliminate hunger and assure food security and nutrition in Africa.

IV. Other Matters

A. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Africa Regional Conference

- 30. The Regional Conference discussed the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) and approved the revised MYPOW 2012-15 for the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.
- 31. The Regional Conference:
 - a) Acknowledged the excellent work of FAO and the Republic of Congo in the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations of the 27th African Regional Conference in Brazzaville, Congo;
 - b) Encouraged continued efforts to strengthen communication and regular contact with the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives to FAO, the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities.

B. Rules and Procedures of the Regional Conference for Africa

32. The Conference agreed that the current Rules and Procedures are to be maintained. The Chairperson of the 28th Regional Conference and the Chairperson of the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives may consult if deemed necessary.

C. Concluding Items

List of Proposed Topics for the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

33. The Conference considered suggested topics for the 29th Regional Conference and proposed four potential themes:
- a) Family Farming: Food security, Resilience, Access to land, Agri-business;
 - b) Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management: Water Resources, Livestock, Agricultural research;
 - c) Climate Change: Risk Management, Policy, Resilience, Best practices;
 - d) Value chains: Smallholder inclusiveness, Food safety, Access to markets, Smallholder modernization, Producer organisations.
34. The Conference requested the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives, the Secretariat of the Regional Conference and the Chairperson of the 28th Africa Regional Conference to examine the proposals in order to make a final decision on the theme for the 29th Regional Conference.

Date and Place of the 29th Regional Conference for Africa

35. The Regional Conference agreed to hold the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa in Côte d'Ivoire in 2016. The date will be agreed jointly by the host country and the secretariat of the Regional Conference. The Conference thanked Cote d'Ivoire for their offer to host the conference.

Any other matters

36. The Regional Conference endorsed the recommendation of the 23rd Session of the African Commission for Agriculture Statistics to establish a Global Commission on Agricultural Statistics.
37. FAO informed delegates and advocated support for the preparation of and mobilization of resources for the joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) to be held in Rome, Italy on 19-21 November 2014. Members were encouraged to participate in this high-level Ministerial Conference.
38. The Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) enumerated the achievements realized since the 23rd COAG session in 2012, including the approval of the new International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and the launch of the Global Soil Partnership, and invited the Ministers from Africa to attend the 24th COAG, to be held in Rome from 29th September to 3rd October 2014.

Ministerial Roundtable

39. A ministerial roundtable was held on Friday, 28th March 2014 to discuss the follow up to the High Level Meeting of African and International Leaders : “Towards African Renaissance : Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP framework”.
40. The Roundtable focused on two interrelated themes :
 - Delivering on the African Union Declaration and high-level meeting road map;
 - Mobilizing public and private financing for ending hunger in 2025.
41. Ministers exchanged views and recommended that AUC, NPCA, Member Countries and FAO work to translate the AUC declaration and roadmap to End hunger in Africa by 2025 into concrete actions that add value to country efforts and catalyse systemic policy and programme implementation needed to produce tangible results.

Tunis Ministerial declaration

42. At the end of the Conference, Ministers endorsed the Tunis Ministerial Declaration (Appendix D).

Adoption of the report

43. The Conference unanimously adopted the report as presented by the Rapporteur.

Closure of the Conference

44. On behalf of the participants, His Excellency, Robert Kenneth K. Sichinga, outgoing Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and the New Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of the Republic of Zambia gave a vote of thanks and expressed utmost appreciation to the President, the Head of Government, and the people of the Republic of Tunisia for their hospitality and arrangements in hosting the Regional Conference, and to FAO for the successful preparation and organization of the Conference. The Director-General of FAO was also associated to the vote of thanks.
45. In his closing statement, the Director-General of the FAO congratulated the participants for the high level of participation and constructive debates, thanking them for reaffirming their commitment to end hunger in Africa and to guarantee food security.
46. On behalf of His Excellency, the President, the Head of Government and the People of the Republic of Tunisia, His Excellency Mr Lassaad Lachaal, Ministry of Agriculture and Chairperson of the 28th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, thanked the participants for the exceptional attendance and the work achieved. In closing the Conference, he called on Member states to contribute to implementing the Conference recommendations.

V. APPENDICES

Appendix A. Agenda

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteurs
- 2) Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
- 3) Statement by the Director-General
- 4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
- 5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 27th Africa Regional Conference
- 6) Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security
- 7) Statements on Prioritization of needs of countries and subregions by the Subregional Group Representatives

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

- 8) African Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development
- 9) State of food and agriculture in the region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation with a specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming
- 10) Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow up actions at regional and country level

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

- 11) Priorities for FAO activities in Africa
- 12) Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Africa
- 13) Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

IV. OTHER MATTERS

- 14) Multi-year Programme of Work for the Africa Regional Conference
- 15) Rules and Procedures for the Regional Conference
- 16) Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 29th Regional Conference for Africa
- 17) Date and Place of the 29th Regional Conference for Africa
- 18) Any other matters

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Conference
Ministerial Roundtable

Appendix B. List of documents**SESSION DOCUMENTS**

ARC/14/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/14/2	African Youth in Agribusiness and Rural Development
ARC/14/3	State of food and agriculture in the region and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development programme (CAADP) implementation with a specific focus on small holder farmers and family farming
ARC/14/4	Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow up actions at regional and country level
ARC/14/5	Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa
ARC/14/6	Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional offices for Africa
ARC/14/7	Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network
ARC/14/8	Multi-year Programme of Work for the Africa Regional Conference

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

ARC/14/INF/1	Information Note
ARC/14/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
ARC/14/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
ARC/14/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
ARC/14/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
ARC/14/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 27th Africa Regional Conference
ARC/14/INF 7	Summary report of recommendations of FAO regional bodies
ARC/14/INF/8	Youth and development of aquaculture and livestock in Africa
ARC/14/INF/9	Reporting on the recommendations of the 27 th ARC
ARC/14/INF/10	Declaration and Road map of the high-level meeting "Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme"
ARC/14/INF/11	Africa Solidarity Trust Fund for Food Security
ARC/14/INF/12	Social protection in agriculture
ARC/14/INF/13	Natural resources and land transactions

ARC/14/INF/14	The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
ARC/14/INF/15	Note on side events and sub-regional consultations

CSF DOCUMENT

CSFS: 2013/40	Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Report
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WEB DOCUMENTS

List of Participants and Observers
Inaugural Statement by His Excellency, the Head of Government of the Republic of Tunisia
Statement by the Director-General
Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the Council
Statement by the Chairperson of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
Statement by the CFS Chairperson
Summary report of the Ministerial Round Table on the follow up of the High level meeting of African and International leaders “Toward African Renaissance: Renewed Partnership for Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework”
Summary report on the side event on Youth in the Development of Aquaculture and Livestock
Declaration by Civil Society Organizations to the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Africa
Tunis Ministerial Declaration

Appendix C. Declaration by Civil Society Organizations to the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Africa

We African civil-society organizations - made up of peasant, livestock and pastoral farmer, fishing and consumer organizations, non-governmental organizations, human rights movements, women's organizations, trade unions, youth/student organizations, craftworkers, native peoples and the urban poor - gathered in Tunis on 21st and 22nd March 2014 in the framework of the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, having discussed the situation of agricultural development in Africa, food and nutritional security, family farms and natural resources (land, water, pasture, forests and so on), would like to make the following remarks:

Participants appreciate:

- 1- The introduction by FAO of the strategic framework for partnership with civil society. They appreciate the efforts of PAFO and its member UMNAGRI in organizing this consultation that has brought together participants from 35 African countries, with 47% female representation;
- 2- The efforts of CFS through the adoption of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests;
- 3- The efforts of the African Union, NEPAD and regional integration institutions to maintain and strengthen the participatory and inclusive processes as part of the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes;
- 4- The effective implementation of the trust fund adopted by the 27th FAO Regional Conference to fund States' activities. Participants encourage them to continue their efforts to consolidate the fund and consider funding the projects of young people in farming as part of the project portfolio eligible under this fund;

However, the participants note:

- 1- A weakness in legal and regulatory frameworks in Africa in terms of supporting farming projects for young people;
- 2- Insufficient consideration by tenure policies of tenure access and security for vulnerable groups such as young people, women, native peoples and so on.
- 3- Lack of coherence among policies, programmes and projects at the various levels (local, national, regional and continental), which often creates major shortcomings in their implementation, thereby compromising the achievement of food and nutritional security and actions to reduce poverty in countries;
- 4- Insufficient communication among food security actors in relation to the FAO decentralization process;

Furthermore, 2014 which was declared International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations General Assembly on 22nd December 2011 in New York. The participants deplore:

- 1- Weak public investment in family farms, which is reflected, inter alia, by the mixed results in achieving the Maputo commitments 11 years later and the weak implementation of the CAADP;
- 2- Insufficient financing tools and mechanisms suited to the needs and realities of family farms;
- 3- Funding geared towards industrial farming with the public/private approach that is not suitable for supporting family farms;

In order to take account of these remarks, which we have discussed for two days, we request:

- 1- In relation to African youth in farming and rural entrepreneurship
 - a. The formulation and adoption of coherent policies conducive to the involvement of young people in farming, rather than support for industrial farming enterprises that are the source of land-grabbing in various countries;
 - b. The establishment in all countries of funding and investment mechanisms suited to youth entrepreneurship in farming; in each country, this basically involves setting up special funds to finance young people's farming projects;
 - c. The establishment in all countries of enough quality training arrangements and mechanisms suitable for farming and rural entrepreneurship of young people where they do not exist, and the consolidation of existing arrangements.
 - d. The establishment of an inclusive dialogue mechanism involving the authorities, youth organizations and other stakeholders.

- 2- In relation to the farming and food situation, and implementation of CAADP
 - a. The establishment of inclusive arrangements and mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating and capitalizing on all commitments made in terms of public projects, programmes and policies;
 - b. Improved targeting of support requirements for family farms in the framework of CAADP to ensure that they are modernized in an ongoing and sustainable way;
 - c. Strengthening of the protection of farming and agri-food markets to support regional and continental integration processes through the application of agreements on the free movement of people and goods;
 - d. Promotion of farming risk management and insurance systems;

- 3- In terms of the CFS, participants value the various thematic reports it has drafted and appreciate the last special report of the United Nations on the right to food and:
 - a. Encourage States to engage in decisions to implement the recommendations;
 - b. Ask that the working methods of the CFS be implemented in all levels of regions and countries;
 - c. Call on governments to implement the Voluntary Guidelines in their national context by introducing inclusive approaches, particularly in the form of formal dialogue forums involving all actors (with special attention given to small-scale producers and young farming entrepreneurs) by strengthening the implementation of the Guidelines and the monitoring and evaluation of all actions undertaken;
 - d. Ask for State accountability in terms of useful and relevant farming investments that consider the vision of farming policies that have already been devised or are in the process of being formulated;
 - e. Strongly condemn land-grabbing and demand a moratorium on the industrial production of biofuel in the continent.

- 4- In terms of the FAO decentralization process, the participants support it and also:
 - a. Recommend that the process be inclusive, transparent and coherent;
 - b. Ask that the guidelines and programmes of Regional Offices be defined in agreement with all groups of actors;
 - c. Approve of the proposal to group Regional Offices into two, although this should be accompanied by appropriate measures (particularly in terms of strengthening National Offices);

- d. Consider that this strengthening requires increased human and financial resources, the appointment of a civil-society focal point within National Offices, and greater decision-making power for such Offices in terms of certain activities;
- e. Ask States to communicate regularly about the FAO decentralization process in order to resolve weaknesses over time.

5- Furthermore, participants strongly recommend:

- a. That farming research be funded by the public sector as a priority, and that it should be inspired by knowledge in the form of local know-how;
- b. To governments and FAO to make a positive contribution to the initiatives of civil-society organizations (and peasant organizations in particular) in the context of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014;
- c. To support the process of the Forum of African Rural Women.

6- Lastly, more specifically in terms of fishing, we consider that a common vision and approach to African fishing would help us to face many cross-border challenges in general and in terms of shared resources. In this regard, participants:

- a. Note that the African Union and NEPAD are currently carrying out an important study into African fishing to develop a strategic plan, in preparation for the forthcoming Conference of African Ministers of Fisheries & Aquaculture;
- b. Encourage the active involvement of fishing organizations throughout Africa in the above-mentioned process, so that their concerns can be integrated into the outcome, and in order to make the study more significant and productive.

The Civil Society Organization Consultation in Africa:

- Fully supports FAO and its management emphasizing the eradication of hunger in close collaboration with civil society and other non-State actors;
- Supports the transformations of FAO implemented in the past two years under the leadership of Director-General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva ;
- Welcomes the possibility offered by FAO to contribute effectively to the Regional Conference and participate fully in FAO activities at the national, regional and international levels.

The Civil Society Organization therefore applauds FAO and encourages it to continue along the same lines in the years to come.

We civil-society organizations are encouraged to continue structuring work to respond to the challenges of professionalization. Furthermore, we are prepared to carry out advocacy and monitoring actions vis-à-vis decision-makers at various levels in order to achieve our aims.

Done in Tunis, on 22 March 2014

The African Civil Society Organization Consultation in the framework of the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Africa

Appendix D. Tunis Ministerial Declaration

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegations, assembled in Tunis at the 28th FAO Regional Conference for Africa,

Recalling the July 2003 Maputo Declaration, which adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the reference framework for public agricultural policies and food security challenges in Africa,

Convinced that Africa, given the recent high levels of economic growth in many countries, has unique opportunities to revitalize initiatives toward agriculture and food systems with specific support and focus on opportunities for youth,

Considering the important role of youth in rural development for food and nutrition security,

Concerned that twenty five percent of the population of Africa is still malnourished,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to finalize its new strategic framework and country programming frameworks, to enhance its response to Member priorities,

Welcoming and supporting the implementation of the following three regional initiatives: 1) Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme; 2) Sustainable production intensification and commercialization through integrated management of agricultural landscapes, and 3) Building Resilience in Drylands of Africa,

Recognizing the positive effect of the reforms that FAO put in place during the last biennium,

Supporting the new strategic direction of the organization and underlining the necessity for continuity to achieve the full impact of these changes,

Commending FAO for the progress realized in establishing the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund,

Recalling the momentum created by the African Union 2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security that coincides with the United Nations International Year of Family Farming, and underscoring the important role played by family farm in agricultural production and natural resources management,

Acknowledging the Decision of the African Union Summit of January 2014 on the High-Level Meeting on Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 under the Framework of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme, and

Agree to take forward the Decision as a recommendation of the 28th Africa Regional Conference to the African Union Summit in Malabo, in July 2014,

Reaffirm the importance of partnership with civil society and private sector to achieve common goals for Africa,

Congratulate the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Angola for their contributions to the African Solidarity Trust Fund, and encourage other countries to contribute as well,

Encourage and support the Director-General to pursue his efforts for a sustainable implementation of his vision,

Reaffirm our commitment to work closely with FAO towards the achievement of our common goals and objectives in the Africa Region.

Tunis, 28 March 2014