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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Thirty-fifth Session

21-22 September 2020¹

Provisional Annotated Agenda

MINISTERIAL MEETING

21 September 2020

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 2) Appointment of the Rapporteur
- 3) Statement by the FAO Director-General
- 4) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
- 5) Statement by the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

- 6) Transforming food systems to achieve the SDGs and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region's economy have revealed the centrality of food and agriculture for well-being, and the need to rapidly move towards ensuring reliable access to safe, affordable and nutritious food produced and traded in an efficient and sustainable way for all. This requires a profound transformation of the region's food

¹ Rescheduled from 2-4 March, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

systems that would need to focus further on safe and healthy diets for all, the adoption of sustainable production systems, decent employment opportunities and income for smallholder producers and rural communities, and addressing the special needs of countries in crisis. FAO is proposing a Regional Plan based on 12 major Areas for Action to respond to COVID-19 and put the region on track to achieve the SDGs.

7) FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: A New Approach

An evidence-based, country-led and country-owned initiative, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative represents a bold step to eradicate poverty (SDG 1) and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG2). Using advanced geospatial modelling and analytics, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative identifies opportunities to raise the incomes and reduce the vulnerabilities of the rural poor, through a market-oriented food systems approach. FAO leads the Initiative in close collaboration with the Rome-based and UN Agencies and delivers principally through partnerships based on matchmaking with players that, in each case, include donors, multilateral development banks (MDBs), universities and research centres, the private sector and civil society.

III. PROGRAMMATIC MATTERS

22 September 2020

8) Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

9) Summary presentation of the reports of the First and Second Regional Consultative Technical Meeting for the 35th Session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC35) by the rapporteur

10) Date and Place of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

11) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East

12) Review and adoption of the Report