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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST

Thirty-fifth Session

Muscat, Oman 2-4 March 2020

Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for the Near East

Executive Summary

This document presents the revised MYPOW for the Regional Conference for the Near East for the period of 2018-2021. The MYPOW describes the overall objectives, results and mechanisms underlying the operations of the Regional Conference for the Near East for the coming years.

FAO Regional Conferences prepare a Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) covering a minimum period of four years. The 34th Session of Regional Conference for the Near East approved its MYPOW for the period 2018-2021.

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference may wish to endorse the revision of the MYPOW 2018-21.

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

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Overall Objectives

1. The overall objectives reflect the enhanced role of Regional Conferences in the governance process of FAO. In particular, the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the region regarding matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate, and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.
2. In this context, the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC) provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. It also conducts regional-level assessments, to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food and nutrition security. It exercises oversight of the functions and activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization. It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.
3. The regional commissions review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of forestry and range (Near East Forestry and Range Commission [NEFRC]), fisheries and aquaculture (Regional Commission for Fisheries [RECOFI] and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean [GFCM]) and desert locust (Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region [CRC]). Their recommendations complement and inform the discussions during NERC on the Programme of Work and Regional Priority Framework.
4. In 2018, the Regional Conference reviewed and approved its MYPOW for 2018-2021. The MYPOW is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and built on FAO's ongoing efforts to translate into action the vision of a food secure and sustainable world.

Results

A. Strategy and priority setting, and budget planning

5. **Result:** Regional Conference recommendations and guidance on regional priorities, programmes, initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of regional interest, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development, provide a sound basis for decision-making by the FAO Council and Conference, as appropriate. The Regional Conference would set priorities at the Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives, in alignment with identified regional, subregional and national priorities and special initiatives.
6. **Indicators and targets**
 - Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by the Regional Conference to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, initiatives, organizational structure and budgets of interest to the region, as appropriate, with relevant indicators;
 - Regional Conference recommendations relating to the regional priorities and FAO's Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the FAO Council and Conference reports; Regional Conference guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the FAO Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant Governing Bodies.
7. **Outputs**
 - Results-based information on past programme implementation and achievement will be provided to the Regional Conference. More detailed progress on regional activities implemented

under the Regional Office's responsibility, including on the Regional Initiatives, would also be available for the Regional Conference's review;

- Clear and precise decisions taken and recommendations made to the Regional Conference reflecting membership priorities for addressing agriculture and food security issues in the context of FAO's Strategic Programmes, as reflected in its MTP and PWB and recommendations made to the Regional Conference.

8. **Activities**

- Review implementation of regional priorities in the region;
- Review decisions and recommendations from the regional commissions and other relevant institutions and meetings in the region;
- Review the performance of the Organization in the region, including the past programme implementation and achievement at the Outcome level of the Strategic Objectives, Regional Initiatives, completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and the effectiveness and efficiency of the network of FAO offices in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations;
- Advise on the plans, programmes and projects carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work and regional initiatives.

9. **Working Methods**

- Liaison with relevant statutory bodies, including the regional commissions and other institutions in the region;
- Informal consultations among Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersessional period;
- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the Near East Regional Group;
- Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Assistant Director-General (ADG) and Regional Representative.

B. Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters

10. **Result:** Regional Conference recommendations provide a sound basis for decisions by the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory matters.

11. **Indicators and targets**

- Clear and action-oriented recommendations included in the Regional Conference report;
- Regional Conference recommendations taken up by the FAO Conference.

12. **Output**

- Clear recommendations for the FAO Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

13. **Activities**

- Review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora impacting on the mandate of FAO;
- Consider the recommendations from FAO Statutory Bodies, including regional commissions, and meetings of relevance to the region;
- Address new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the region;
- Consider the desirability of developing international agreements for the region.

14. **Working methods**

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region;
- Liaison with relevant FAO Statutory Bodies and other institutions in the region;

- Informal consultation meetings of senior staff of the Regional Office with the Near East Regional Group.
- Regular contacts and informal consultation between the Chairperson of the Regional Conference and the Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative.

C. Work planning and working methods

15. **Result**: The Regional Conference operates effectively and efficiently in an action-oriented, inclusive way.

16. **Indicators and targets**

- Regional Conference agendas are focused;
- The Regional Conference provides a forum for a greater and more informal exchange of views and experience among delegates, and also with major regional organizations;
- Regional Conference decisions are taken by consensus;
- Regional Conference reports are concise, consisting mostly of specific, action-oriented recommendations, and are made available to Members in a timely manner;
- Regional Conference documents adhere to new institutional report presentation standards and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences;
- Seventy percent of Members generally participate at a senior level in the Regional Conference.

17. **Outputs**

- Revised MYPOW for the Regional Conference for the period 2018-2021 adopted in 2018 and revised in 2020;
- Methods of work of the Regional Conference kept under review and improvements sought regularly.

18. **Activities**

- Consult with Members on agenda and format of the Regional Conference;
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of the time available;
- Review the Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conference;
- Regular review of methods of work, including performance measures;
- Review of the status of implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations.

Working methods

- Consultations with Members through the Chairperson of the Regional Conference, as appropriate;
- Intersessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson of the Regional Conference through the Bureau, with support from the Regional Conference Secretariat;
- Structured and focused deliberations during the sessions;
- Efficient drafting arrangements for reports;
- Secretariat support for the implementation of and follow-up to the MYPOW;
- Informal meetings of the Chairperson and members of the Near East Regional Group and senior members of the Secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC).