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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 14–17 May 2024

Provisional Annotated Agenda

I. Introductory Items

1. **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteurs**
2. **Adoption of the 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 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe**

The statement will provide a brief overview of the outcome of the deliberations of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10–13 May 2022) on matters related to the Europe and Central Asia region.

6. **Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**
7. **Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO)**
8. **Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector (PS)**

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

9. **The role of innovation and digitalization in the sustainable use of natural resources to accelerate the implementation of climate-resilient and low-emission pathways in agrifood systems**

This item will examine the role of innovation and digitalization in improving the management of natural resources to promote low-emission and climate-resilient agrifoods that preserve agrobiodiversity and improve water governance in the Europe and Central Asia region.

The background document will analyse the status of net zero and climate- and nature-positive interventions for moving towards climate-resilient, low-emission and climate-neutral agriculture in the Europe and Central Asia region, bringing concrete examples from FAO's collaborative activities with relevant partners on green innovative technologies, digital tools and mechanisms for managing natural resources and agrobiodiversity sustainably. It will also emphasize the role of technology and digital solutions in creating an enabling environment for efficient water governance, including in the context of climate change. It is expected that, based on the background document, the challenges and opportunities of using innovative strategies and implementing mechanisms will be identified and policy recommendations for natural resources and agrobiodiversity management presented to move forward to net zero agrifood systems in the Europe and Central Asia region.

10. Building resilience through agrifood systems transformation

This agenda item will examine the fact that rural populations – including in Europe and Central Asia – have been affected by multiple crises, and thus are subject to specific risks, including high poverty rates, uncertain and irregular incomes, a lack of access to decent jobs, a lack of infrastructure and technologies, food insecurity and malnutrition. Agrifood systems transformation provides various opportunities for strengthening resilience; improving economic and social sustainability; addressing equal access to resources, services and information; and leveraging gains for economic and social sustainability, leaving no one behind.

During the discussion, FAO Members, representatives of civil society, research and academia, and the private sector are invited to share inclusive, gender-responsive and innovative good practices and lessons learned. Guidance will be sought on critical actions, priorities and opportunities for regional cooperation and action.

11. FAO's response to the multiple crises in Europe and Central Asia

The Europe and Central Asia region has been affected by multiple crises stemming from the war in Ukraine, the effects of climate change and, most recently, the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic in early February 2023, resulting in a triple crisis in food, energy and finance. Among the impacts, food and energy prices, accelerated inflation, tightened financial conditions, increased import bills, disrupted food supply chains, damaged logistics and infrastructure have been steeply rising, thus threatening food security in the region. High retail prices of food, gas and petroleum products remain a major concern. Overall inflation has generally slowed since the peak in the first half of 2022, but food inflation remains high. The most vulnerable countries in the region – including Türkiye and countries in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans – are the most affected by the multiple crises, particularly the poorest segments of the population.

The background document under this item will summarize FAO's response in the region, with emphasis on the short- and long-term impacts of the multiple crises, and will also contain material relevant as background for item 12 below.

During the discussion, Members will be invited to assess FAO's responses to the multiple crises in the region over the past two years, to review the recommendations and share their experiences for improving the Organization's interventions to better serve the needs of affected countries and strengthen their resilience.

12. Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

This item is included on the Provisional Agenda following request of ERC Members by means of a letter signed by four Members dated 10 April 2024, as well as a separate letter initially signed by 36 Members on 12 April 2024 and later co-signed by 39 Members on 15 April 2024. The background document for item 11 above contains material relevant as background for this item.

During the discussion, Members will be invited to assess FAO's responses in the region over the past two years, to review the recommendations and share their experiences for improving the Organization's interventions to better serve the needs of affected countries and strengthen their resilience.

13. Financing to end hunger for today and tomorrow (SDG 2)

This item will discuss the financing necessary to achieve the goal of Zero Hunger, particularly in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 2.1 and SDG Target 2.2 in the region. The objective of the background document is to provide an understanding of the challenges faced by the region and its countries in financing the implementation of policies. Another important aspect of the document is to provide information on how countries are financing the reduction of food insecurity in the region and what innovative financing solutions are being used – and could be used – to support efforts to achieve SDG 2 targets in the region, in general.

14. How to fight against food loss and waste

The document will review the situation regarding food loss and waste in Europe and Central Asia, provide an overview of the work done by FAO in the region and share recommendations for reducing food loss and waste. In the discussion, Members are invited to share their experiences, review the recommendations and provide further guidance for FAO's intervention in this area.

15. Global and Regional Food Security Outlook

This agenda item will include a background document that presents a snapshot of the global and regional situation regarding food security, and discusses the short- and medium-term outlook for food commodities, focusing on the prospects of supply, demand and trade (imports and exports). The background document also highlights emerging issues, particularly at the regional level, including short-term market developments and emerging trends, key medium-term trends, and the regional aspects of medium-term production, consumption and trade trends. It will conclude with specific regional issues. Members are invited to share their views and review the findings and trends.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

16. Regional results, priorities, the *four betters* and the Sustainable Development Goals

This agenda item will include two background documents related to reporting on the results of implementing the Programme of Work 2022–2023, lessons learned and regional priorities for the 2024–2025 biennium and beyond.

17. Learning from evaluations of FAO's work in Europe and Central Asia (2020–2023)

This agenda item will highlight useful findings and lessons learned from evaluations of FAO's work in Europe and Central Asia during the past four years. Shared insights will focus on key thematic areas and seek to inform future work across the region.

IV. Other Matters

18. Country Office Network – Current status and way forward: A policy paper

This agenda item will provide an overview regarding the status of the review of the Country Office network in the region, and it will highlight measures put into place to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the region's Decentralized Offices. Members are expected to review the situation and make recommendations.

19. Report on the outcomes of the debate of the 43rd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

A summary report from the deliberations of the 43rd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture, which took place from 27 to 28 September in Budapest, Hungary, will be presented.

20. Report on the outcomes of the debate of the Joint Session of the 42nd European Forestry Commission (EFC) and the 81st UNECE Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry (COFFI)

A summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the Joint Session of the 42nd European Forestry Commission and the 81st Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry, which took place from 20 to 23 November 2023 in San Marino, will be presented.

21. Report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

A summary report on the work of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission will be presented.

22. Report on the work of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish)

A summary report on the work of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission will be presented.

23. Governance matters

24. Date and place of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe

25. Any other matters¹

Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference

The draft report, introduced by the Rapporteurs, will be reviewed and discussed for endorsement.

Closure of the Regional Conference

Information Notes

Report on the outcomes of the debate of the 46th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The outcomes and recommendations of the 46th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean will be presented.

Report on the work of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD)

A summary report on the work of the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease will be presented.

Regional Strategic Foresight for the Europe and Central Asia region

Responding to calls by the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and other Governing Bodies, FAO is currently engaged in foresight exercises for the transformation of agrifood systems at all levels. This information note outlines the findings to date of the regional foresight exercise for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems, ongoing in Europe and Central Asia, and elicits further engagement of Members and other regional stakeholders in strategic foresight to support decision-making processes.

¹ If they wish, delegates may comment on information notes under “Any other matters”.