



COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-first Session

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Developments in fora of importance for the mandate of FAO

Executive summary

In keeping with established practice, the Council is informed of developments in other fora of importance for FAO's mandate:

- 1) The VII Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO);
- 2) Update on the 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and negotiations for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
- 3) Update on the Science and Innovation Forum, and FAO's leadership and collaboration to repurpose food and agricultural support to transform agrifood systems.

Further information on the above topics will be posted as Web Annexes to CL 171/INF/4.

Suggested action by the Council

The above topics are presented to the 171st Session of the Council for information only.

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I. The VII Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

1. The VII Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 25 July 2022.

2. At the meeting, the heads of delegations exchanged views on establishment of coordinated and effective cooperation between the SCO member states in agriculture and food security. FAO expressed its readiness to assist the SCO countries in improving food supply, rational use of natural resources, and development of sustainable agriculture based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed jointly.

II. Update on the 27th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and negotiations for a Post- 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

3. The 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, with the Arab Republic of Egypt hosting the presidency of the conference. Prior to COP27, countries met in Bonn, Germany during the 56th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC (SB 56) from 6 to 16 June 2022 to support the implementation of the mandated programmes and thematic work streams and to prepare draft decisions for COP27.

4. During SB56, agriculture and food security issues were discussed under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) and referred to in the discussions of the First Global Stocktake; the Glasgow - Sharm-El-Sheikh Work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation; the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage; the Oceans and Climate Change Dialogue; the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (carbon markets) and transparency. FAO is contributing to these processes by sharing inputs on topics related to agrifood systems and climate change.

5. The Egyptian COP27 Presidency has developed several initiatives to mainstream climate change across a broad range of sectors. FAO supported the Presidency to formulate initiatives including the Food and Agriculture Initiative for Sustainable Transformation (FAST), and on Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience, and Nutrition and Climate Change. These initiatives were launched at COP27.

6. Part II of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will take place from 7 to 19 December 2022 in Montréal, Canada, under the presidency of the People's Republic of China. The main objective of the Conference is to adopt the "Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF). The GBF will replace the CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which expired at the end of 2020. The Framework sets out goals, targets, and indicators to achieve the CBD's three objectives¹, and its 2050 vision of "*Living in Harmony with Nature*". Many targets are closely related to FAO's mandate, and the active engagement of the agrifood sectors is critical to the success of the Framework.

7. The fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) took place from 21 to 26 June 2022². Preceding COP15 at the same venue, a further meeting of WG2020 will be held from 3 to 5 December 2022, aiming to advance discussions on the GBF.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/convention/articles/?a=cbd-01>

² <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/WG2020-04>

III. Update on the Science and Innovation Forum, and FAO's leadership and collaboration to repurpose food and agricultural support to transform agrifood systems

8. The FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2022 focused on highlighting the centrality of science, technology and innovation for agrifood systems transformation. The event, gathering world leading science and innovation experts, encouraged a diversity of perspectives based on science, thereby facilitating rationalization and inclusiveness of debate.
9. The FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2022 was organized together with the World Food Forum (WFF) and Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum from 17 to 21 October 2022.
10. The objectives of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum were to:
- share robust science and evidence-based options for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;
 - assist countries in making informed decisions regarding the co-creation, adaption and adoption of appropriate and context-specific technologies and innovations;
 - explore scientific and technological advances and associated risks and opportunities;
 - promote effective science communication, including by engaging on contentious issues; and
 - analyze options for strengthening science and evidence-based decision-making.
11. The latest updates of the food security and nutrition situation around the world presented in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2022 show that we are not on track towards the goal of eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. For instance, almost 3.1 billion people in the world could not afford a healthy diet in 2020. The current recessionary context makes it even more challenging for many governments to increase their budgets to invest in agrifood systems transformation, which is needed for their countries in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2. For FAO, it is a priority to understand how governments are supporting the food and agriculture sector through policies such as price incentives, fiscal subsidies, and so forth, and based on evidence, to provide recommendations.
12. FAO is playing a fundamental role in the global discussion on public support to food and agriculture. It is a member of [the international consortium](#) that provides estimates on the most predominant food and agricultural policy support around the world, along with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the World Bank and the OECD. In 2021, FAO led the report "[A multi-billion-dollar opportunity – Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems](#)", which it co-published in collaboration with UNDP and UNEP. This report was very influential in giving momentum to this issue. It called for action at country, regional and global levels to phase out the most distortive, environmentally and socially harmful support, in order to redirect it towards investments in public goods and services for agriculture, such as research, development and infrastructure. Subsequently, with FAO in the lead, and in close collaboration with IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, the SOFI 2022 report offered a deep dive into the theme "[Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable](#)". This report shows the pathways through which current support to food and agriculture is pushing up the relative cost of nutritious foods and promoting unhealthy diets. It provides guidance on alternative combinations of food and agricultural policy support that can help to reduce the cost of nutritious foods, as well as on how the resulting trade-offs need to be managed to ensure agrifood systems are not only more efficient, but also more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. FAO is now moving from the global recommendations to policy support at country level. More specifically, FAO's [Monitoring Food and Agricultural Policies \(MAFAP\)](#) programme has started to support governments in eight sub-Saharan African countries to make better use of their public support and

resources in order to accelerate inclusive agrifood systems transformation in ways that also help increase the affordability of healthy diets.