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منظمة
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COUNCIL

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FAO Country Office Network - Current status and way forward

Outcome of the Regional Conferences (February – May 2024)

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

Beth Crawford
Assistant Director-General
Director, Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget
Tel: +39 06570 52298

I. Background

1. Each Regional Conference considered its document *FAO Country Office Network – Current Status and Way Forward* and provided its feedback in the Report of the Regional Conference.¹
2. The modalities of FAO's presence at country level are shown in the table below for all Regions; each Regional Conference document shows the breakdown for the relevant Region.

Modalities of FAO's presence at country level - all Regions (2023)

FAO country coverage modalities	# of countries
Full-fledged FAO Representation	76
Multiple accreditation	37
FAO Representation co-located in a Regional/Subregional Office	14
Other representation arrangements	11
Partnership and Liaison Office	8
Total	146

II. Summary overview of Regional Conference discussions

3. Below is a summary of common outcomes across the Regional Conferences.²
4. The Regional Conferences:
 - a. welcomed FAO's efforts to propose a decentralization model to achieve a more efficient and modern FAO Country Office Network;
 - b. supported measures and models responding to Members' expectations under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond;
 - c. welcomed greater flexibility and efficiency in the use of the limited financial and human resources at country level;
 - d. appreciated the overarching guiding principles of: a tailored approach; flexibility, agility and strengthened capacity built in; office staffing structures reflecting modern operations; implementation being done in a progressive manner; and resource neutrality within the regional Country Office network budget;
 - e. noted the importance of the United Nations development system repositioning and FAO's alignment to country level processes;
 - f. requested FAO to proceed with a transparent process of consultation with countries; and
 - g. requested regular updates to Governing Bodies, including with additional information.

III. Next steps

5. During the second half of 2024, FAO will undertake country-level consultations, moving forward with countries who wish to take steps first. Management will report back to the Council Committees and Council in autumn/winter 2024, including with: information on any proposed adjustments to the models and/or process; the additional information requested by the Regional Conferences; and any preliminary information related to the impact of the proposed changes on the Programme of Work and Budget 2026-27.

¹ ARC/24/10, ARC/24/REP; APCR/24/11, APCR/24/REP; ERC/24/11 Rev.1, ERC/24/REP; LARC/24/4 Rev.1, LARC/24/REP; NERC/24/8, NERC/24/REP..

² For regional specificities, the Report of the Regional Conference should be consulted.