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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth Session

Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018

Note on Side Events and Subregional Consultations

21 February 2018

Wednesday, 21 February

a) Side Event 1: FAO Strategic Programmes

The Side Event will illustrate the instrumentality of FAO's Strategic Programmes in enabling the Organization to effectively respond to identified challenges and priorities in Africa, in a coherent, consistent and synergetic manner.

The Side Event will discuss the impact of the Strategic Programmes and relevant Regional Initiatives and their delivery mechanisms on programmes and activities at regional and national level. In particular, the discussion will focus on emphasizing the role of Regional Initiatives in responding to the most important priorities in Africa (ending hunger and malnutrition, sustainable production and value chain development, resilience building) and in enhancing the coherence of the global commitments, such as Agenda 2030 and Paris Climate Agreement to regional priorities. The Side-Event will also be an opportune platform to discuss how FAO's Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives facilitated constructive intersectoral and multistakeholders engagements and coordination, around programmatic interventions, paving the way for building synergies and mutual accountability for results.

b) Side Event 2: Renewing Commitment to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

Launched in 2013 with an initial contribution of USD 40 million, the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) is a unique financing mechanism designed to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of zero hunger in Africa. Using a programmatic approach, the ASTF has implemented actions across a broad range of thematic areas including sustainable agriculture production, resilience building and youth employment generation. As the ASTF seeks to scale up programme implementation and widen beneficiary coverage across the region, this Side Event will promote renewed commitment from

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development partners at global, regional and national level to deepen collaboration and deliver increased resource mobilization.

c) Side Event 3: Responding to crisis in the Lake Chad region – partnerships for resilient livelihoods

Millions of people in Northeastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin have been displaced by continued violent conflict triggering a large-scale humanitarian crisis. FAO in partnership with the UN and development agencies has been working with thousands of vulnerable households hindered by limited access to agricultural lands and assets. This Side Event will present the current issues and challenges facing the delivery of effective humanitarian responses in the Lake Chad region and put forward recommendations to strengthen partnerships and build resilient livelihoods for the affected communities to move forward.

d) Side Event 4: Migration and rural development

This Side Event will focus on the complex relation between migration and rural development and will create visibility for the role that FAO can play in this regard, including towards the adoption, implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact on Migration at the regional and national level. Migration is intimately linked with FAO's global goals. FAO's comparative advantage resides in its expertise across the humanitarian and development spectrum on all aspects relating to the link between rural development and human mobility. In collaboration with its partners, FAO plays an important role in addressing the drivers of internal and international migration, and in harnessing the development potential of migration, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction.

The Side Event will also emphasize the complexity of drivers of rural migration such as conflicts, natural disasters, rural poverty, food insecurity, lack of employment opportunities, limited access to social protection and negative impact of climate change, bearing in mind that the majority of migrants in Africa originate from rural areas and that rural youth are more prone to migrate. In particular, both opportunities and challenges that rural migration brings to countries of origin, transit and destination will be reviewed.

e) Subregional Consultations: Prioritization of needs of countries and subregions

Discussions on the prioritization of needs of countries and subregions will be held in order to focus on subregional and national priority issues and challenges that will be introduced by Subregional Group Representatives to the Ministerial Session. The consultation will be facilitated by the FAO Subregional Coordinator of each subregion in order to produce statements for the Ministerial Session on the priority needs of countries and subregions and strategies foreseen.

Thursday, 22 and Friday, 23 February

The Ministerial Round Table will address the following points:

f) Ministerial Round Table 1: The SDG 2030 Agenda: Delivering Sustainable Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including ambitious global targets on poverty and hunger eradication. At the continental level, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation was launched in 2014, in line with the African Union Agenda 2063, the 50 year Transformative Agenda for Africa. Both frameworks have strong interlinkages due to thematic focus on sustainable and inclusive growth, with positive

implications for renewed commitment towards rural transformation. The Ministerial Round Table will discuss the potential opportunities for domesticating the SDGs in alignment with the Malabo framework as part of a wider shift to accelerate inclusive agricultural growth in the Africa region.

g) Ministerial Round Table 2: Zero Hunger

Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025, responding to the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, supports and capacitates governments in focus countries to engage in multisectoral planning, coordinated implementation, monitoring and evaluation with financial commitments to food security and nutrition policies and programmes under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) initiative. The main expected result is to accelerate and add value to ongoing regional and country efforts through capacity strengthening and intersectoral coordination for accountability on investments, with coherent and harmonized programme delivery at all levels. The Round Table will inform on joint actions taken by FAO and its partners in different areas aiming at eradicating hunger by 2025.

h) Ministerial Round Table 3: 40th Anniversary of FAO country Representations

In the Africa region, 21 country Representations will reach 40 years by 2019: 11 in 2017, six in 2018 and another four in 2019. The 40th anniversary initiative celebrates FAO's lasting commitment to the field and to country level cooperation with host governments. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of FAO's decentralized operations and strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization and partnerships, including South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The Round Table will emphasize the importance of FAO's long-term presence and technical assistance in the field for contributing to member countries' achievement of the SDGs, and it may make recommendations on how to strengthen capacities and ensure effective governance while allowing for flexibility among FAO Representations in Africa, particularly with regard to shaping country programmes that are relevant to countries' emerging needs.