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Продовольственная и
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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE

42nd Session

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Locust Drone Technology Advisory Group (LDAG)

Agenda item 11

In order to enhance Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s efforts in introducing and boosting the use of drone technology for locust survey and control operations, an independent advisory group of experts, the Locust Drone Technology Advisory Group (LDAG), was established in 2022. The first meeting of the group was held virtually on 9 March 2022.

The LDAG is an independent voluntary group of senior experts that provides support and advice to the Locust and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Team (NSPMD) and the Desert Locust regional commissions on the development and operation of drone technology for locust survey and control operations.

The group assists in the development and review of the technical specifications of drones for survey and control operations and the review/evaluation of drone technology proposals/offers received from private sector or partners; it also shares knowledge, developments, reports and data on drone technologies; and provides technical advice on matters pertaining to drone use for locust survey and control, and suggestions related to the improvement of the functionality and performance of drones.

The group is supported by the FAO and Regional Commissions technical team. Four virtual meetings were held in 2022 that resulted in the development of the technical specifications (TS) for drones for locust control.

An international call for expression of interest has been launched by FAO procurement service based on the developed TS. Offers received for drone for locust control are being reviewed and field testing of drone prototypes of prequalified companies will proceed during 2023-2024.

Points for discussion and decisions

- *DLCC is invited to note the establishment of the LDAG and the development with the drones for locust control, and provide any further relevant guidance.*