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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirtieth Session

**Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018**

**Ministerial Round Table - 40th Anniversary of  
FAO Country Representations**

### I. Introduction

1. In 1977, FAO made a conscious and far-reaching decision to begin opening representations at the country level to bring its technical assistance closer to governments and the people who needed it most.
2. Between 2017 and 2019, fifty-five country offices will turn 40, marking four decades of FAO's long-term presence in the field. In the Africa region, twenty-one country representations<sup>1</sup> will reach 40 years by 2019.
3. This year's Regional Conference is an important occasion for underlining the Organization's lasting commitment to the field and cooperation with host governments in the region. Anniversary activities will culminate with a special anniversary event at the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in 2019.
4. The 40th anniversary is an opportunity for FAO and its Members to formally acknowledge and celebrate what has been the backbone of the Organization's work: 40 years of country level representations and partnerships geared towards improving agricultural and rural development, and achieving the shared global goal of Zero Hunger.

<sup>1</sup> Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

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## **II. Expected Results**

5. The Ministerial Round Table will reflect on the 40 years of FAO Representations in Africa. Specifically, it will:
- recognize the achievements made by FAO's Decentralized Offices since 1977 and efforts to strengthen decentralized Offices;
  - identify challenges or constraints faced by the Decentralized Offices and discuss concrete strategies to strengthen FAO Representations;
  - identify opportunities and issues for which FAO technical assistance is needed in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
  - recommend actions or adjustments required for the effective accomplishment of FAO's mission.
6. The round table will explore opportunities for intercountry collaboration and technical exchange within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
7. The round table will 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.
8. FAO will organize an exhibition for Ministers, showcasing 40 years of strong and productive partnership as well as illustrating current and planned cooperation between country offices and member countries.

## **III. Round Table Organization**

9. The round table will consist of a panel discussion with four ministers (from each RAF sub region – Central, Eastern, Southern and West Africa) and be moderated by FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa.
10. The recommendations from the Ministerial Round Table will provide input to the special anniversary event planned for the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in 2019.
11. Agenda
- |             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00-09:10 | Welcome and Introduction of Participants: Minister for Agriculture |
| 09:10-09:20 | Opening Remarks: Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General, FAO  |
| 09:20-09:45 | Ministerial Panel Discussion                                       |
| 09:45-09:55 | Inputs from the floor                                              |
| 09:55-10:00 | Summing up (conclusion/recommendations)                            |
- Facilitation: Mr Bukar Tijani, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa.