



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirtieth Session

Khartoum, the Sudan, 19-23 February 2018

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

*Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers,
Director-General, and
Distinguished Delegates,*

1. It is a privilege for me to participate in this 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, and an opportunity to address this meeting for the first time in my role as Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council. Before sharing some thoughts on the issues that both the Council and this Regional Conference will focus on, please allow me to convey my appreciation to the Government and the people of the Sudan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all of us.
2. The Regional Conferences are now an integral and important component of FAO's governance structure as they provide the imperative regional perspectives into the programme of work of the Organization. Indeed, one of the important tasks of this 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa will be priority setting at the regional level, focussing on the "Organizational Outcomes", which define the results of FAO's work. The priorities expressed by this session will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.
3. I expect that after fruitful deliberations over the course of this week, Members of the Africa Region will provide clear and specific recommendations to the FAO Conference and Council in the final report of this session. I am sure that in doing so, Members will also take into account the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, which are core to the work of the Organization.
4. FAO, with its expertise and technical knowledge, is undoubtedly well positioned to support countries in this region to achieve SDGs 1 and 2. Indeed, 14 of the 17 SDGs are related to FAO's work, and close alignment between the SDGs and the FAO Strategic Objectives confirm the considerable potential for FAO to contribute substantially to the implementation of the new global development framework. It is clear, however, that without greater progress in reducing and eliminating

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



ARC30

hunger and malnutrition by 2030, the full range of SDGs will not be achieved. I should also like to add that it is encouraging to note that the Decentralized Offices will play a key role in supporting countries in the implementation of the SDGs.

*Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

5. The world is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II and a collective response is absolutely necessary for an enhanced and more focused impact at global and local levels in order to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

6. The data, contained in the "State of Food Security and Nutrition" (SOFI) Report in 2017 was not positive: hunger is on the rise. SOFI estimates that 815 million people suffered from hunger in 2016. This represents an increase of 38 million people compared to 2015, when the number was 777 million. Africa is one of the continents mostly affected due to the combination of conflict and environmental shocks. The food security situation has deteriorated in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, the region in the world with the highest percentage of undernourished people.

7. This leads me to draw your attention to another aspect: almost 60 percent of the people suffering from hunger in the world live in areas affected by conflicts and by the impact of climate change. They are predominantly rural people. In this regard, the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has doubled from 2007 to 2015 to nearly 60 million people. At its 158th Session in December 2017, the FAO Council expressed its appreciation that the Organization will Co-Chair the Global Migration Group (GMG) in 2018, together with the International Organization for Migration. This year is going to be critical for the future of migration as UN Member States will adopt a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly migration and one on refugees. During this 30th Session of the Africa Regional Conference, you will have the opportunity to provide guidance, from the regional perspective, on GMG priorities for the African continent.

8. It should also be highlighted that the 158th Session of the FAO Council acknowledged that the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, as deliberated at the COP23, sets the agriculture and food security agenda for the UNFCCC process and encouraged FAO's efforts in that regard.

9. Finally, I would like to draw the Regional Conference's attention to the informal Joint Meeting of the Governing Bodies of the three UN Rome-based Agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, that was held last September at FAO headquarters. The informal Joint Meeting set a positive agenda for further steps towards increased collaboration between the three agencies at the national, regional and global level, with specific emphasis on accelerated collaboration at the regional and national level.

*Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

10. To conclude, I should like to encourage this meeting to bear in mind that as a Governing Body of the Organization, this 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa has a unique and crucial role to play in defining FAO policies. I trust that the Report you will submit to the 159th Session of the Council in June this year with regard to programme and budgetary matters, and to the 41st Session of the FAO Conference in June 2019 with regard to policy and regulatory matters, will clearly spell out the regional views you would like the Organization to act on in the coming biennium.

11. Chairperson, I would like to wish you and the delegates to this Regional Conference fruitful deliberations.

12. Thank you for your attention.