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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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**Review of the Strategic Framework and Preparation of the Medium Term
Plan 2018-21 - Regional Priorities**

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Executive Summary

- The quadrennial review of the FAO Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 will take place during 2016, through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, for approval by the Council and Conference in the first half of 2017. This document provides a synthesis of the regional trends, challenges and priorities for consideration by the Programme Committee, based on the documents and outcomes of the 2016 Regional Conferences.
- There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO governing bodies for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework. Four important global developments will frame FAO's work in the future: (i) the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda setting the framework for mobilizing the means of implementation; (ii) the Paris Agreement, adopted as an outcome of the UN Global Climate Change Conference (COP21); (iii) the ICN2 and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action on Nutrition; and (iv) the World Humanitarian Summit, taking place 23-24 May 2016.
- Eight recurrent trends and challenges for food and agriculture emerge from a synthesis of the documents and reports of the Regional Conferences: youth employment; urbanization; migration and displaced populations; innovation and technology; value chain development and trade; transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases; data, information and statistics to improve evidence-based policies and monitoring; and building resilience for vulnerable populations.
- The Regional Conferences underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization, appreciated the alignment between FAO's Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and urged the Organization to continue focusing the implementation of its work programme on country priorities. The discussions were largely structured around the priorities as reflected in the Regional Initiatives, as well as recent global and regional developments and emerging issues.

Guidance sought from the Programme Committee

The common trends and challenges identified by the Regional Conferences, in the context of major global developments will be used to review each Strategic Objective, and in particular their Outcomes, Outputs and indicators. Together with the expressed regional priorities, this will help fine-tune FAO's results framework and to ensure regional specificities and priorities are taken into account, in order to effectively address regional and country priorities in FAO's Programme of Work in the future.

The Programme Committee is requested to:

- a) take note and provide any comments on the main drivers of change – the global developments and regional trends and challenges;
- b) take note of the regional priorities expressed; and
- c) provide advice on the implications of the main drivers and regional priorities, and in particular the SDG indicators, for use in reviewing the Strategic Framework and preparing the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

I. Introduction

1. The quadrennial review of FAO's Strategic Framework and preparation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 will take place during 2016, through the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, for approval by the Council and Conference in the first half of 2017. The timeline with main milestones for the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the MTP 2018-21 is provided in *Annex 1*.

2. In line with the first three milestones, the Regional Conferences, in their regular sessions during the period from March to May 2016, have reviewed and advised on regional results and priorities. In this regard, each Regional Conference considered: a) the results achieved in 2014-15 under the Programme of Work including the Regional Initiatives, and b) regional priorities for FAO's work in 2016-17 and 2018-21 based on major developments and trends in the region. The guidance from the Regional Conferences will inform the review of FAO's Strategic Framework and preparation of a new MTP 2018-21.

3. This document provides, as the fourth and fifth milestones of the review process, a synthesis of the regional trends, challenges and priorities for consideration by the Programme Committee, based on the documents and outcomes of the Regional Conferences. At the time of preparation of this document (mid-April), the Regional Conferences for Europe (ERC) and the Near East (NERC) had not taken place. Therefore, this document draws only from the documents and reports of the Regional Conferences for Africa (ARC), Asia and the Pacific (APRC), and Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC)¹. Extracts from the Regional Conference reports and a summary of major trends and challenges identified in these regions are provided in *Annex 3* (ARC, APRC, LARC); the same will be provided for Europe and Central Asia (*Annex 4*) and Near East and North Africa (*Annex 5*) after the completion of ERC and NERC in the first half of May. Furthermore, the report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) was not available at the time of preparation of this document and will be summarized in *Annex 6* once received.

4. In this context the document provides information on elements that will inform the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the MTP 2018-21, organized as follows:

- Section II - Global developments and regional trends and challenges
- Section III - Summary of regional priorities
- Section IV – Conclusions and guidance sought

II. Global developments and regional trends and challenges

5. There has been strong and consistent support expressed by FAO's governing bodies for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework. Global developments and emerging trends highlighted in the MTP 2014-17 (reviewed)² remain relevant for all the regions, with specific regional manifestations. Several important global developments occurred during 2015-16. The recent global developments and emerging trends have implications for FAO's work, as summarized below, for consideration during the strategic review and medium-term planning process.

A. Recent global developments

6. Four important global developments will frame FAO's work in the future: (i) the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted at the United Nations in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda setting the framework for mobilizing the means of implementation; (ii) the Paris Agreement, adopted as an outcome of the UN Global Climate Change Conference (COP21), which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty;

¹ ARC/16/REP (2017/14), APRC/16/REP (2017/15), LARC/16/REP (C 2017/17)

² C 2015/3 paragraphs 3-21

(iii) the ICN2 and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action on Nutrition; and
(iv) the World Humanitarian Summit, taking place 23-24 May 2016.

2030 Agenda for sustainable development and SDGs

7. The 2030 Agenda is a historic commitment to tackle poverty and hunger, promote sustainable use of natural resources and address climate change through an interconnected set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing that issues concerning food, livelihoods, and the management of natural resources cannot be addressed separately. FAO's Strategic Framework is broadly aligned with the SDGs, promoting an integrated approach to poverty and hunger eradication and to sustainable management of natural resources. The 153rd session of the FAO Council in December 2015, welcomed this alignment noting that there would be opportunity for bringing further coherence while preparing the MTP 2018-21.

8. Many countries and regions have already made commitments to end hunger: in 2014, African Heads of State committed to end hunger on the continent by 2025 by adopting the Malabo Declaration, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) endorsed the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 (CELAC FNS Plan) by reaffirming earlier commitments. Other regions and countries are in the process of making similar commitments. Indicators to measure and monitor achievements and report on progress will help turn the SDGs and targets into powerful management tools to help countries develop policies and allocate resources.

9. To ensure mutual accountability among all stakeholders, the 2030 Agenda calls for a major expansion of the reporting and monitoring framework, capped by a country-led process of follow-up and review that culminates in the High-level Political Forum. In March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) agreed to a global indicator framework "as a practical starting point" and 230 unique indicators have been proposed. Each global indicator will have a 'custodian' agency, expected to: (i) contribute to statistical capacity-building, (ii) collect data from national sources, (iii) provide the storyline for the annual global SDG progress report to be prepared by the UN Secretariat, and (iv) work on further methodological development. Custodians will coordinate with other agencies and stakeholders interested in contributing to the indicator development. FAO has been requested to be the custodian of 20 indicators, and to contribute to five.

10. Partnerships, and in particular partnerships with the private sector, are expected to play an expanded role under the 2030 Agenda, enabling coordinated action by multiple stakeholders to address the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs. Under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, partnerships are expected to play a key role in facilitating country access to means of implementation, including finance and investment, access to markets and to technology, capacity development, and policy support. UN institutions will be called upon to play a unique role: providing and upholding inter-governmentally agreed norms and standards, monitoring commitments and tracking results, promoting institutional development as a trusted and neutral facilitator.

Paris Agreement on climate change

11. The FAO Conference in June 2015 emphasized that global climate change posed increasing threats to food security and nutrition. The growing impact of climate change was one of the global trends identified during the 2012-13 review of the Strategic Framework, and was further emphasized in the review of FAO's Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and preparation of the PWB 2016-17. Climate change is a work area of the highest priority for FAO in the coming years. To ensure quality and coherence of FAO's work in this regard, climate change was added as a cross-cutting theme and Objective 6 Outcome in the PWB 2016-17.

12. In December 2015, the landmark Paris Agreement for post-2020 climate action was adopted by the UN Conference of the Parties in its 21st session (COP21). Over 90 percent of all countries who submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) towards the COP21 negotiations included agriculture as a sector to be considered for mitigation and/or adaptation. With the signature of the Paris agreement in New York on 22nd April, these contributions became binding Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Directing climate finance into investments in food and agriculture will be central in implementing the NDCs.

13. FAO is preparing a corporate climate change strategy and action plan³ cutting across all five Strategic Objectives and integrating regional and country priorities. The strategy will guide FAO's work and strengthen impact through coherence of interventions, clarity on the role of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the continuum of development, disaster risk reduction and clear approaches and mechanisms to integrate climate change in FAO's Strategic Objective programmes.

ICN2 and framework of action

14. At the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) world leaders adopted the Rome Declaration on Nutrition⁴ and the Framework for Action on Nutrition⁵, renewing their commitment to establish and implement policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

15. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition acknowledges the multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health. It sets out a common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition. The Framework for Action provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies, in the form of 60 recommended actions, to guide the implementation of the wide-ranging commitments stated in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition. In direct follow-up to ICN2, nutrition has been included as a cross-cutting theme and Objective 6 Outcome in the PWB 2016-17.

16. On 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a UN Decade of Action on Nutrition that will run from 2016 to 2025. The resolution for the decade of Action on Nutrition recognizes the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, providing an umbrella for a wide group of actors to work together to address these and other pressing nutrition issues. FAO and WHO will lead the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition in collaboration with UN Agencies and other stakeholders.

17. The goal of the Decade of Action on Nutrition is to facilitate the implementation of the recommended actions included in the Framework for Action to achieve the global nutrition and diet-related non-communicable disease targets. FAO and WHO will call on their Members, organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations and platforms, as well as non-state actors to contribute to the goal of the Decade of Action on Nutrition with concrete commitments.

World Humanitarian Summit

18. Against a background of rapidly rising numbers of vulnerable and "at-risk" people affected by human-induced and natural disasters, and an increasing resourcing gap to address the needs of these affected populations, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will be held in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016, around a broad agenda of reforming and rejuvenating the global humanitarian system. The WHS is closely intertwined with both past and future processes, including the agreements reached in 2015 such as the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as processes during 2016 such as the High-level Political Forum, the High-level Plenary Meeting on Refugees and Migrants, and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. The inter-connectedness of these processes implies a clear need for the UN system to move beyond traditional silos and to work across mandates, sectors and institutional boundaries, in particular to resolve the divide between humanitarian and development work.

19. Peace, security and human rights must equally be part of these integration efforts. It is increasingly recognized that efforts are required by all parts of the UN system, both directly and indirectly, to promote peace and prevent conflict, noting the differing scope and focus of each organization's mandate and work. Early warning, prevention and conflict resolution require greater prioritisation and investment in our collective work. Conflict and violence interrupt food production and agriculture, deplete food stocks, deepen hunger and exacerbate malnutrition. FAO has a key role

³ A roadmap for FAO's Climate Change Strategy is presented in PC 119/4

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ml542e.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm215e.pdf>

to play in this regard and is preparing a corporate peace-building policy that will take all of these aspects into account.

B. Key regional trends and challenges

20. The global developments above have diverse implications in the regions along with region specific trends and challenges. In the interest of effectively incorporating regional specificities in the review of the Strategic Framework and preparation of the MTP 2018-21, a regional strategic review was carried out in each region in 2015 to identify the special problems of the region and priority areas of work for FAO in the future. A synthesis of the key trends and challenges was presented in each of the Regional Conferences as a basis for discussion on priority areas of work for FAO in the region. The regional trends and challenges, and the priorities expressed during each of the Regional Conference, are collated in *Annexes 3 to 6*. A synthesis of the trends and challenges organized under eight recurrent themes is provided below.

Youth employment

21. While the youth population grew by 185 million from 1991 to 2014, labor force participation of youth has decreased, mainly due to increased participation in secondary and tertiary education.⁶ However, a large proportion of youth are inactive. In 2014, youth unemployment was highest in the Middle East and North Africa, at 28.2 percent and 30.5 percent, respectively, and lowest in South Asia (9.9 percent) and East Asia (10.6 percent). Long-term unemployment is also a concern in low-income countries. In 2014, long-term unemployment among youth in sub-Saharan Africa reached 48.1 percent and 60.6 percent in the Middle East and North Africa.⁷

22. Providing opportunities for decent employment and addressing vulnerabilities for youth that already have employment pose great challenges, particularly in agriculture and related sectors where the majority of the rural youth are employed. Rural youth are often employed in the informal economy as contributing family workers, subsistence farmers, home-based micro-entrepreneurs or unskilled workers and often not counted. They typically earn low wages, are employed under casual or seasonal work arrangements and face unsafe, often exploitive working conditions that compel many to migrate to urban areas. Re-engaging youth in agriculture requires addressing the numerous constraints that they face when trying to earn a livelihood. Among others, they include insufficient access to skills development and education; limited access to resources such as land; and low levels of involvement in decision-making processes. Rural youth are also typically excluded from those institutions that provide access to financial services – such as credit, savings and insurance – which further hinders their ability to participate in the sector.

23. Developing an enabling environment in which young women and men can thrive and seize current and future decent rural employment opportunities is crucial in addressing youth unemployment and underemployment. Identification of constraints facing rural youth in accessing decent work and designing and implementing strategies that more effectively target rural youth are key areas of action which include, *inter alia*, improvement of skills through educational and vocational training, facilitating access to land, credit, and business development services, as well as improving conditions of employment in agriculture and the rural economy.

Urbanization

24. Since 2008, the majority of the world's population lives in urban areas. Rapid urban growth is expected to continue. From the present 3.8 billion, the number of people living in cities is projected to expand to 6.3 billion (or 66 percent of the world's population) by 2050.⁸ Nearly 90 percent of the increase will be concentrated in low and middle-income countries in Asia and Africa. The population living in rural areas is expected to decline from 3.4 billion in 2014 to 3.2 billion by 2050; most of this population will be living in Asia and Africa.

⁶ *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling up investments in decent jobs for youth*, International Labour Office- Geneva: ILO, 2015.

⁷ *Ibid*

⁸ UN-DESA (2014), *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2014 Revision*, highlights.

25. Besides a new spatial configuration, urbanization and migration out of rural areas bring about opportunities, as well as challenges for global food security and nutrition. Better coverage of basic services and density of infrastructure could help improve both access to, and utilization of food. However, spontaneous processes of urbanisation can create negative side effects such as congestion, excessive sprawl. Slum growth can exacerbate urban poverty, and derail efforts at poverty reduction and ending hunger and malnutrition. Close to one billion people live in urban slums in developing countries with fastest growth in sub-Saharan Africa and South-Eastern Asia.

26. Urbanization is putting upward pressure on global food demand through increased incomes and changes in diets towards more animal protein. Increased livestock production, which tends to be more intensive in the use of natural resources (land and water in particular), including in peri-urban areas. Growing cities also need more water (for drinking and sanitation facilities) causing conflicts for access to resources with peri-urban agriculture and rural areas in general.

Migration and displaced population

27. Migration affects the lives of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. In the next decades, demographic trends, globalization and climate change are likely to further increase migration pressures both within and across countries.⁹ In 2015, the number of international migrants reached 244 million,¹⁰ along with an estimated 740 million internal migrants.¹¹ International and internal migration is often connected. Rural to urban migration can be the first step for moving abroad, be it to neighbouring countries or to other continents.

28. Forced displacement, due to conflicts and persecutions, has increased starkly in recent years. In 2014, the number of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers reached nearly 60 million, while an estimated 107 million people were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards.¹² Situations of displaced people in protracted crises contexts are of particular concern. Also, because of climate change, entire regions will have to adapt their food production systems. Food producers will need to either adopt new or changing production techniques or, if not feasible, move to other income-generating activities. This will reinforce the ongoing rural-urban migration, and transform food producers into food consumers. In those regions where the rural-urban migration does not provide opportunities for income generation, South-North migration across nations and continents will be an attractive option and thus likely would intensify.

29. Internal and international migration poses both challenges and opportunities for rural areas and process of rural transformation. Migration poses human development costs and risks through weakening of family and social cohesion and a decrease in human capital quality as those leaving rural areas to seek employment and income in the cities or overseas are usually younger, better educated and more skilled members of the family, often leaving children, the elderly and women behind. Agriculture is characterized by already low productivity levels in many countries and distress migration from rural areas may lead to further deterioration of the quality of rural livelihoods and agricultural production potential.

30. At the same time, migration can reduce pressures on local labour markets and resources, and increase local human capital, through skills and technology transfers, knowhow and social networks. Migration can also bring social change, especially by changing gender roles, while diaspora groups can help rural areas in countries of origin, through capital investment and assistance. Migration results in large inflows of remittances that can play an important role in reducing poverty in rural areas, particularly where migration is overseas to higher-income countries. Remittances from migrants amount to an estimated USD 550 billion annually; more than fourfold the volume of official development assistance. Rural households are recipients of about 40 percent of these remittances. Remittances invested in rural areas can generate positive impacts on agricultural production, by

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4983e.pdf>

¹⁰ UNDESA. 2015. Trend in International migration 2015. Population Facts. December 2015, no. 2015/4.

¹¹ IOM. 2013. Migration and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda.

¹² United Nations. 2016. One humanity: shared responsibility. Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit. United Nations General Assembly. A/70/709. 2 February 2016.

enabling farmers to buy inputs, improved seeds, and adopt more sustainable land management practices, and by stimulating farm and off-farm businesses.

31. The challenge is how to leverage more of the benefits from migration for agriculture and rural development and to address the root causes of distress migration, *inter alia* by creating better economic opportunities for rural youth, fostering rural-urban linkages and investing in resilience of rural livelihoods.

Innovation and technology

32. Innovations¹³ and technologies have long been considered a principal instrument in increasing agricultural productivity. It is the entire innovation system within which different pathways and related instruments come into play simultaneously to produce innovations and technologies. In the 1960s and 1970s, the agricultural innovation systems in many regions largely focused on developing technologies and innovating processes in support of improved yields (e.g. Green Revolution in Asia); in the 1980s, the emphasis was on input intensification and agricultural technology diffusion; and in the 1990s and 2000s, the participatory approaches to remove farm-level constraints.

33. In the last 10-15 years, the issues confronting societies have considerably changed: farmers and consumers in today's world are more concerned about water scarcity; prevalence of plant and animal diseases and pests; attracting skilled labour to work in agriculture; and the quality of food being consumed. At policy level, more focus is on issues such as environmental sustainability, demographic transformation, changing consumption patterns, economic changes and uncertainty. At the same time, innovations in policies and production systems are needed, especially in support of family farmers, that foster synergies between genetic solutions and agronomic/management solutions, and integrate conservation of local resources and knowledge with sustainable intensification. The issue is whether the agricultural innovation systems are responding to these changed conditions with sufficient openness, flexibility and adaptability to identify solutions.

34. There is a need to review the current state of the environment for innovations to identify constraints that limit the creation of agricultural innovations and technologies and to define possible future directions and action paths to spur a culture of innovations. There are many challenges to address, including, lack of coherence along the entire Research and Development (R&D) life-cycle – from research design to adoption of new technologies and evaluation - which leads to waste of scarce resources and opportunities; mismatch between the technologies and processes developed by research institutes or private sector and what is required by farmers, and lack of effective extension services. Formal R&D organizations (private or public) have generally prioritized research to identify technologies and processes to increase productivity and intensive form of agriculture, but largely neglected farmers' requirements, especially those of smallholders and women farmers.

35. Technology adoption is slow and weak, partly due to the gap between innovations and technologies and their applicability. For example, some innovations and technologies are suitable for irrigated agriculture in areas with flat lands, but attempts to adopt them in other places may lead to inefficiencies. Similarly, some technologies are useful for large-scale farming, but attempts to use them in small-scale farming are likely to fail. Regional or production system specific R&D activities have shown to yield better results in many environments.

¹³ The World Bank defined the innovation system as a “*network of organizations, enterprises and individuals focused on bringing new products, new processes and new forms of organization into economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect their behavior and performance*” (World Bank, 2008). FAO in its Expert Consultation on agricultural innovation systems and family farming in 2012 adopted the following definition on ‘innovation’ relevant to the agricultural context considering the impact of innovation on food security, sustainability and development outcomes: “*Agricultural innovation is the process whereby individuals or organizations bring existing or new products, processes and forms of organization into social and economic use to increase effectiveness, competitiveness, resilience to shocks or environmental sustainability, thereby contributing to achieve food and nutrition security, economic development and sustainable natural resource management*” (FAO, 2012).

Value chain development and trade

36. Along with its potential benefits, increased participation in international trade can bring various challenges. The growing interdependence of markets can result in wider repercussions of global economic or health-related crises, influencing domestic food prices and potentially contributing to food safety issues. Alignment of trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) to meet World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments can create challenges for countries in accessing international markets. Many import-dependent countries are vulnerable to price and supply risks. Regions such as Africa and the Near East and North Africa which have persistent food-import dependency face serious problems and low-income countries are particularly vulnerable when high and rising food import bills take money away from other important development agendas further aggravating food insecurity. The problem is compounded for countries that rely on agricultural exports where the revenues from traditional exports such as cocoa, coffee and spices are less certain and affected by volatile international market prices. Limited intraregional food trade and weak integration to global food markets are further risk factors.

37. Tackling trade-related challenges will require actions to enhance the reach toward new markets both through alignment of trade, food safety and SPS policies and legislation to meet WTO commitments under trade agreements, and through value chain development for meeting international food safety requirements. Strengthening of the institutional frameworks for food safety, plant and animal health through capacity-development for national food safety agencies is essential. There is a growing demand for upgrading value chains to ensure consistency with international food safety and quality standards. This is important particularly for small and medium enterprises in food exporting countries, including farmers and food business operators. While large food processors have the resources for meeting standards themselves, small businesses often do not. Trade facilitation should focus on both the strengthening of institutions and technical assistance to assist the value addition and improvement of quality and safety for local and regional markets, as well as exports of selected products for small- and medium-size businesses.

38. In many countries, developments in value chains are not inclusive of disadvantaged groups. Family farmers and small enterprises, particularly those run by women often lack the knowledge, skills, assets and access to enabling institutions to effectively participate and compete in value chains. Inclusive and gender-equitable value chain development require appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks that enable the development and empowerment of producer organizations, and build technical and entrepreneurial capacity, including through vocational training of farmers and their institutions/enterprises.

Transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases

39. Transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests account for an estimated 30 percent of post-harvest losses across the world. The rate of loss is exceptionally high in Africa due to the pervasiveness of many diseases affecting crops, livestock, wildlife, fisheries, forest products that provide substantial income for millions of smallholder farmers in rural and peri-urban regions. In environments characterized by high animal population density and movement and marketing opportunities, containing the spread of high-impact animal diseases such as the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) or avian influenza is a challenge, particularly with poorly resourced health services (public health and veterinary).

40. Well organized pest and diseases monitoring systems are notably weak in most middle- and low-income countries. Enhanced surveillance facilities at strategic locations to monitor spread of pests and diseases, as well as coherent response mechanisms are key to monitoring and timely action. The cost of inaction can be huge, particularly for low-income countries highly dependent on local production to ensure adequate nutrition and on exports of agricultural products where bans related to infestations or disease occurrence can cause losses in export revenues and nutrition quality. In some instances animal-diseases can be a source of infection directly to humans, negatively impacting productivity.

Data, information and statistics to improve evidence-based policies and monitoring

41. Formulating evidence-based policies and monitoring their impact requires benchmark data to measure year-to-year progress, which are not readily available in many countries. Monitoring and reporting on food insecurity and malnutrition, climate change, as well as on agriculture and rural development require reliable and timely data. Improved data at country level are also useful in comparing progress across countries with shared indicators and statistical frameworks to help countries see their improvements in comparison to others.

42. The SDG framework brings an additional challenge to tracking progress on the SDGs, which will increase demands on national statistical systems to collect and analyse data in new areas. This will create a need for increased resources for data and information systems to monitor and evaluate progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs, through the development of appropriate indicators and robust data collection systems and multidisciplinary analytical capacities.

43. In this regard, it will be crucial to strengthen the capacity of governments to: (a) develop data protocols and establish systems to collect and share data; (b) produce disaggregated information by different geographical areas and population groups, including marginalized communities, and (c) make reliable projections and undertake evidence-based policy analyses and report on progress made towards the achievement of the SDG targets.

Building resilience for vulnerable populations

44. Global mean temperature is rising, rainfall patterns are changing and extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves and droughts, have increased in number and intensity. Some regions and groups of countries – such as the low-lying deltas and small island developing countries – are extremely vulnerable to these changes, but they often have the least capacity to cope. At the same time, in many regions of the world, and particularly in the Near East and North Africa conflict situations are displacing populations with profound implications on human capital.

45. El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon characterized by the abnormal warming of sea surface temperature in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. On average, it occurs every two to seven years and can last up to 18 months, causing heavy rains, flooding or extremely hot or cold weather. Climatologists predict that the 2015-16 El Niño event could become one of the strongest on record, which requires specific plans for early interventions. Fourteen countries in Africa, the South Pacific, Asia and Central America are particularly vulnerable due to their increased risk to extreme weather and a subsequent negative effect on vulnerable people, and another 19 countries are facing moderate risk.

46. Climate extremes such as drought, flooding, heat stress and tropical cyclones will become more intense and more frequent. The extent to which climate change will affect agricultural production and rural livelihoods will largely depend on the level of resilience of the food and agricultural systems. Improved disaster risk reduction measures and preparedness, as well as sustainable agriculture practices adapted to climate change are important. Building resilience of affected populations require immediate humanitarian assistance, as well as long-term measures to improve livelihoods and ensure a path to long-term development.

47. In this regard, social protection measures are powerful interventions to improve lives and strengthen the resilience of rural households to shocks and crises. In the long-term policies, strategies and action plans need to ensure sustainable food security and nutrition within an integrated rural-urban framework where resilience of both cities and rural areas are ensured. At the regional level, cooperation and integration in response to crises and long-term food security needs and development of risk management instruments to mitigate shocks are of crucial importance.

III. Summary of regional priorities

48. In each of the Regional Conferences the deliberations on the regional priorities for 2016-17 were largely centred on the Regional Initiatives (RIs), which represent cross-cutting areas of work on issues of main priority for the region, allowing for special attention to achieve impact at country level. The Regional Initiatives were developed based on identified priorities and recommendations made by

the Regional Conferences in 2014 and further refined for the 2016-17 biennium, based on lessons learned from 2014-15 and review of regional priorities, and endorsed by the Regional Conferences (*Annex 2*).

49. The Regional Conferences underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization, appreciated the alignment between the FAO Strategic Objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and urged the Organization to continue focusing the implementation of its work programme on country priorities. The discussions during the Regional Conferences were largely structured around the priorities, as reflected in the Regional Initiatives, as well as recent global and regional developments and emerging issues. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, statistics, climate change and nutrition came up prominently calling for strengthening these areas particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

50. Several areas of priority were common across the Regional Conferences, such as strengthening food security and increasing resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, value chain development, control and prevention of transboundary animal diseases, urbanization, migration and youth employment, inclusive growth, including gender and women's empowerment and importance of cross-cutting issues (statistics, gender, nutrition and climate change).

51. Under statistics, attention to data, information and analysis was identified as a priority in several areas: to improve the measurement of SDG indicators and of various marketing measures to facilitate market access for all (LARC); to improve policies and strategies as well as M&E systems (ARC); and for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation (APRC).

52. Regarding nutrition, noting the progress made in the regions in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger, concern was expressed that still many people remain undernourished and that obesity is becoming a growing problem in every region. Resilience building for climate change adaptation and mitigation was also identified as an important priority for all regions.

53. The state of food security and nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was reviewed in ARC, APRC and LARC, taking into account specific vulnerabilities facing SIDS, including those related to climate change. Countries confirmed their commitment by proposing indicative areas of action towards fulfilling the SAMOA Pathway¹⁴ request of developing an action programme, in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

54. Addressing fisheries-related issues was an area of importance for countries, in particular supporting effective management of small-scale coastal fisheries through empowerment of small-scale and subsistence fishers, and to build capacity to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including through effective implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement.

55. In addition to the above, deliberations focused on the way forward with the 2030 Agenda and FAO's role in supporting the development of indicators, measurement and monitoring of progress toward targets. Members called on FAO to support implementation of SDGs and capacity-building in countries in order to develop indicators and information systems on SDGs at the regional and national levels. FAO was also requested to monitor and evaluate progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs, through appropriate indicators, reflecting SDGs in national policies and programmes, including support in formulating and implementing sound policies related to the areas within FAO's mandate. Members urged closer collaboration between FAO and other development partners to strengthen the SDG monitoring process in the region (LARC) and noted the need for increased investment in agriculture to support achievement of the SDGs, including from private sector and non-traditional sources (ARC, APRC).

¹⁴ Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)

IV. Conclusions and guidance sought

56. The common trends and challenges identified by the Regional Conferences in the context of major global developments will be used to review each Strategic Objective, and in particular their Outcomes, Outputs and indicators. Together with the expressed regional priorities, this will help fine-tune FAO's results framework and to ensure regional specificities and priorities are taken into account, in order to effectively address regional and country priorities in FAO's programme of work in the future.

57. Given the commitments of countries to attain SDG targets, there is an opportunity to reshape the SO Outcomes and indicators to ensure close alignment with SDG indicators. FAO is already collaborating closely with the UN Statistical Commission and the 28-country Interagency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators, which will facilitate this alignment.

58. While FAO has already taken steps to mainstream climate change and nutrition in the Strategic Objective programmes, their further integration into the Strategic Framework will draw from the FAO Climate Change Strategy that is currently being prepared, and the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) Strategy 2016-2020.

59. The Programme Committee is requested to:

- a) take note and provide any comments on the main drivers of change – the global developments and regional trends and challenges;
- b) take note of the regional priorities expressed; and
- c) provide advice on the implications of the main drivers and regional priorities, and in particular the SDG indicators, for use in reviewing the Strategic Framework and preparing the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

Annex 1: Timeline- Review of Strategic Framework and Preparation of MTP 2018-21

Dates	Main Milestones
Oct 2015 to April 2016	1. Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2014-15 - Output level reporting - Outcome level assessment
Sept 2015 to March 2016	2. 2016 Regional Conference documents on regional results and priorities - Results-based information (extract PIR) including on Regional Initiatives - Regional Strategic Review leading to regional priorities
<i>Feb – May 2016</i>	3. <i>Regional Conferences: advice on regional priorities, SOs and Outcomes</i> - <i>LARC, 29 February – 3 March (Mexico)</i> - <i>APRC, 7-11 March (Malaysia)</i> - <i>INARC, 21-22 March (Canada)</i> - <i>ARC, 4-8 April (Cote d'Ivoire)</i> - <i>ERC, 4-6 May (Turkey)</i> - <i>NERC, 9-13 May (Rome)</i>
March – May 2016	4. Regional priorities - Global developments and regional trends, challenges, priorities for consideration in review Strategic Framework and preparation of new MTP 2018-21
<i>16-20 May</i> <i>30 May – 3 June 2016</i>	5. <i>Programme (119) and Finance (161) Committees and Council (154)</i> - <i>PIR 2014-15</i> - <i>Advice on synthesis of regional priorities including trends and challenges</i>
April – July 2016	6. 2016 Technical Committee documents on technical priorities - Trends, challenges and priorities
<i>July – Oct 2016</i>	7. <i>Technical Committees: advice on technical priorities, SOs and Outcomes</i> - <i>COFI, 11-15 July</i> - <i>COFO, 18-22 July</i> - <i>COAG, 26-30 September</i> - <i>CCP, 3-5 October</i>
June – Oct 2016	8. Review of Strategic Framework and outline of MTP 2018-21 - Trends and challenges - Restatement of SOs, Outcomes and Outputs (including Objective 6), FOs
<i>Nov 7-11</i> <i>Dec 5-9 2016</i>	9. <i>Programme (120) and Finance (162) Committees and Council (155)</i> - <i>Endorse restated SOs, Outcomes and Outputs (including Objective 6), FOs in outline MTP 2018-21 as basis for PWB 2018-19</i> - <i>Provide advice for preparing PWB 2018-19</i>
Nov 2016 – Feb 2017	10. Mid-Term Review 2016 11. MTP 2018-21 and PWB 2018-19

Dates	Main Milestones
27-31 March 24-28 April 2017	<i>12. Programme (121) and Finance (163) Committees and Council (156)</i> <i>- Endorse reviewed Strategic Framework, MTP 2018-21/PWB 2018-19</i>
3-8 July 2017	<i>13. Conference</i> <i>- Approve reviewed Strategic Framework, MTP 2018-21/PWB 2018-19</i> <i>- Decide budget level 2018-19</i>

Annex 2: Regional Initiatives 2016-17**Africa**

- I. Africa's commitment to end hunger by 2025
- II. Sustainable production intensification and value chain development in Africa
- III. Building resilience in Africa's drylands

Asia and the Pacific

- I. Asia and the Pacific's Zero Hunger Challenge
- II. Regional rice initiative
- III. Sustainable intensification of aquaculture for Blue Growth
- IV. Value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Islands

Europe and Central Asia

- I. Empowering smallholders and family farms
- II. Agrifood trade and regional integration

Latin America and the Caribbean

- I. Support to the Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative
- II. Family farming and inclusive food systems for sustainable rural development
- III. Sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management

Near East and North Africa

- I. Regional water scarcity initiative
- II. Sustainable small-scale agriculture for inclusive development
- III. Building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition

Annex 3. Trends, challenges and priorities – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean

Africa	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commitments at regional level such as the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063 of the African Union in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ➤ Climate Change and the environment ➤ Increasing dependency on food imports ➤ Energy Security and scarcity ➤ Control of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases ➤ Youth unemployment, urbanization and migration and the dividend that can accrue to Africa from its large and increasing youthful population ➤ Evolution of social protection for overall economic transformation ➤ Renewed interest in private sector investment in agriculture including from developing and emerging economies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance support to countries in the important areas such market access and agri-food systems, sustainable natural resource management and governance, and resilience building for effective management of risks. - Continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help countries effectively address these trends and issues in food and agriculture, in particular in the areas of: a) value chain development; (b) youth employment; (c) information and communication technology (ICT) and agriculture; (d) social protection; (e) trade-related policies and agreements; (f) data, information systems and statistics to improve policies and strategies as well as M&E systems; and; (g) resilience building for climate change adaptation and mitigation - Assist countries to develop strong and inclusive agro-processing sectors using appropriate technologies and mechanization, in particular to attract youth to the food and agricultural sector. - Ensure that particular attention is given to youth in the area of agri-food system. - Mobilize financial resources from the Green Climate Fund, in partnership with Regional Development Banks, and using existing FAO facilities and programmes as channels for technical support and capacity development. - Continue to improve on the results and impact of its programmes, including through more focused Country Programming Frameworks contributing to achievement of FAO’s Strategic Objectives and the SDGs - Strengthen partnerships with Member Countries in collaboration with sub-regional, regional and international institutions, providing policy advice and capacity development and building on FAO’s normative and standard-setting work - Develop further in-depth analyses to highlight case studies that have produced positive, concrete and sustainable impact using Public Private Partnership (PPP) platforms - Continue to foster collective action and capacity building of smallholders to increase the participation in modern value chains - Support Members to promote sound institutional and policy and regulatory frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, fisheries, forestry in the context of national food security and transparent processes for selection of private partners and the projects that will be implemented in the framework of PPPs - Enhance efforts to adopt and strengthen appropriate risk management measures, both hard and soft relating to agricultural activities (disaster, etc.) to ensure beneficial effects for smallholders, including agricultural insurance - Create an expert group on PPPs that will conduct in-depth analyses on the nature and types of PPPs that are relevant for specific circumstances and provide expert advice to African countries - Increased production, productivity and competitiveness in the agricultural sector

Africa	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of adequate measures for regional and inter-regional markets for agricultural products, including sanitary and phytosanitary measures - Formulation of policy measures and action plans towards improvement of nutrition security, in line with ICN2 recommendations - Strengthening the resilience capacities of communities to face climate change and natural disasters challenges - Establish a Common Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway Action Programme and (ii) formulate an Action Programme for Food and Nutritional Security challenges facing the respective SIDS within the context of the SDGs, - Facilitation of experience sharing and lessons learned between the Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS.

Asia and the Pacific	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Economic growth and transformation, coupled with widening inequality resulting in mechanization of agriculture in the face of labor shortages, changing diets and contributing to disease burden, widening income gaps, marginalization and social exclusion ➤ Demographic change- overall population growth and the share of children aged 0-14 are declining; the share of adults over 65+ is rising; and the share of working population is declining. Rural-urban migration is rising. ➤ Despite progress made in reducing hunger, nearly half a billion people remain undernourished, 90 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect SDGs in national policies and programmes, including formulating and implementing sound policies related to agricultural trade, enhancing food safety, controlling transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, developing food value chains and reducing food loss and waste, building on FAO’s normative and standard setting work - Monitor and evaluate progress toward achievement of relevant SDGs, through appropriate indicators - Develop robust data collection systems and capacities for analysis - Develop and strengthen policies, institutions and technical capacities to enable countries to double their agricultural productivity and to manage risks posed by climate change, including sea-level rise, floods, droughts and other natural disasters - Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences with good practices through South-South cooperation and other mechanisms for international collaboration. - Develop policies that encourage business models and multi-stakeholder partnerships that have positive implications for rural employment and income-generating activities for both women and men, enabling them to access appropriate levels of technology and business skills - Create policy and regulatory frameworks that enable the development and empowerment of producer organizations, and build their technical and business capacity, including through vocational training for farmers, as a means towards inclusive, gender-equitable value chains - Develop policies for using sustainable approaches to value chains

Asia and the Pacific	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
<p>million children remain stunted and obesity is a growing problem in every sub-region, and the Pacific Island states have particularly high rates of obesity and overweight, which are the underlying causes of diet-related, non-communicable diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Climate change threatens to undercut and possibly reverse the progress the Asia and the Pacific region has made to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. With 57 percent of the global population and close to two-third of the undernourished people of the world, the APR has a huge stake in climate change. ➤ Agricultural innovations and technologies ➤ Policies and institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilize South-South cooperation among countries to facilitate access to technology and share experiences with the development of off-farm value-adding activities - Document, publish and disseminate information on models of success relevant to inclusive value chain development in the region - Promote National Nutrition Policies and Investments, Integrate Nutrition Objectives into Food and Agriculture Policy, developing and supporting regional and national platforms for sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned in implementing nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture interventions promoted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) - Help countries to align their agriculture and food policies to the ICN2 Framework of Action and SDG 2 upon request; - Strengthen food safety and nutrition outcomes with clear measurable indicators. - Resilience-proof fisheries and aquaculture production systems - Support effective management of small-scale coastal fisheries through empowerment of small-scale and subsistence fishers as reflected in FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication; - Build capacity to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing - Develop cost-effective aquaculture production systems, including sustainable and affordable feed for aquaculture production; build capacity to support effective implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, aquatic biosecurity and disease prevention measures - Promote ongoing work on globally important agricultural heritage systems, and highlight the multi-stakeholder dialogues on the potential roles of agroecology and agricultural biotechnologies in productive, sustainable and inclusive food systems; - Improve the management of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), among others. - Reflect the priority recommendations of the Meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers in future work, and provide follow-up support in the form of Technical Cooperation Programme projects and other relevant support. - Support to priority areas of work, including climate smart agriculture, developing and implementing norms and standards related to food and agriculture, nutrition and food safety, and improving domestic market linkages and agricultural sector competitiveness;

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Declining economic growth rates – public policies to raise to raise agricultural competitiveness in order to respond to the difficult macro and trade context are crucial ➤ The effects of climate change are now being felt in agricultural production, where climate variability is eroding resource wealth, especially water, forests and soils, particularly in the most vulnerable territories. ➤ Despite the great progress made, there are people in the region still suffering from extreme poverty, hunger, obesity and other forms of malnutrition. ➤ Public policies, specifically on agro-environmental issues and social protection, play a fundamental role for public action to help avert increase in food insecurity and malnutrition. In particular, increasing public expenditure on key areas such as social protection, public investment and the promotion of local food systems, are crucial. ➤ Family farming sector faces obstacles for participating in more efficient markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give priority to countries presenting greatest challenges in relation to hunger and poverty reduction, with special attention to SDGs. Give special attention and continue developing specific actions to address challenges in Haiti. - Continue the support of the implementation of global and regional commitments, as well as related public policies recalling, the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), as well as regional undertakings, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative and the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC FNS Plan). - Support efforts to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnutrition in all its forms, including overweight and obesity, as well as its structural causes, such as social, economic and cultural inequality, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Ensure support from the United Nations General Assembly for ICN2 outcomes and the adoption of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and to improve interagency coordination and collaboration on nutrition, including overweight and obesity - Support countries in creating capacities to elaborate the indicators and information systems associated with the SDGs at regional and national level, highlighting highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity - Continue to support inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and governance to facilitate the interaction of policies and dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve social and economic transformation of the rural sector, while preserving country leadership and paying particular attention to women, youth and indigenous peoples. - Stress the importance of furthering support for differentiated policies on fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on artisanal fisheries, as well as for the forestry sector and the most vulnerable communities whose livelihoods depend on forests - In implementing programmes highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity and in facilitating trade with consumers. - Promote, in cooperation with other international organizations, mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agrifood, fishery and aquaculture products and to facilitate links with consumers. - Promote fora for policy dialogue among countries in the region in order to determine concerted action for fostering better coordination between climate change adaptation activities and disaster risk reduction activities, through the exchange of experiences, practices, knowledge and technology. - Highlighted the specific characteristics that must be considered when addressing food and nutrition security challenges in small countries, most of which were Caribbean island states, and called for these challenges to be met in the context of country programming frameworks agreed with FAO

Latin America and the Caribbean	
Regional Trends and Challenges	Regional Priorities as expressed in the 2016 Regional Conference
<p>➤ Additional regional areas of attention are: the structure and tenancy of land; the fight against rural poverty; governance at different levels (zonal and institutional); particular attention to indigenous peoples, women and youth; local markets and intra-regional trade; energy and the technological matrix for family and peasant farming production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, complement national support given to countries within a regional context, for prevention, mitigation and response to extreme weather and human-induced events, placing particular emphasis on vulnerable populations such as smallholders, family farmers, foresters, artisanal fishers, women, youth and indigenous peoples. - Continue on the preparation of guidelines to help formulate ecosystem policies to promote all three dimensions of sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – social, economic and environmental – based on countries’ practical experience, promoting the development of a regional programme aimed at exchanging experiences and lessons learned by countries in this area. - Note the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agro-ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean and continue working on the issue. - Strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial agro-ecology approach, placing special emphasis on the interaction of policies for sustainable production and responsible consumption, disaster risk management, agricultural insurance, technical assistance, rural extension and communication, social protection, and farm employment - Continue strengthening of national plant and animal health and food safety systems, and the development of programmes to strengthen national efforts for prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, pests and diseases. - Accord greater importance to the value of forests and forest plantations with regard to risk management and climate change adaptation. - Promote fora for policy dialogue and the exchange of experiences between the region’s countries to foster better coordination between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities - Endorse the importance of supporting national plant and animal health, and food safety systems, and develop programmes to strengthen regional efforts for prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, pests and diseases - Support prevention, mitigation and response to extreme weather and human-induced events, developing resilience, placing particular emphasis on vulnerable populations - Endorse South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to support the development of healthy and sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the region