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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-first Session

Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16-18 May 2018

**Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019 of the Regional
Conference for Europe (ERC)**

Executive Summary

The 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) endorsed the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-2019. The version set out below is a slightly revised version of the MYPOW, capturing also the work of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish).

Guidance sought from the Regional Conference

The MYPOW 2016-2019 is presented to the Regional Conference for Europe for information.

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I. BACKGROUND AND OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

1. It is recalled that the Regional Conference reviews the situation in the region regarding matters pertaining to the Organization's mandate, and provides advice and action-oriented recommendations to the FAO Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, and to the FAO Council on matters pertaining to the priorities, programmes and budgets of the Organization.
2. In this context, the ERC provides regional perspectives on FAO's strategies and priorities and formulates concrete recommendations on regional activities, also contributing to enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, it conducts regional-level assessments to feed into improved sustainability of agriculture and food security. It exercises oversight of functions and activities of FAO in the region, in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization. It operates efficiently and effectively, collaborating where appropriate with relevant partner organizations.
3. The technical commissions of the region review technical aspects and issues of importance in the areas of agriculture (European Commission on Agriculture - ECA), forestry (European Forestry Commission - EFC) and fisheries (European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission - EIFAAC, and Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission - CACFish). The commissions review technical aspects and issues of importance to the region and their recommendations complement and inform discussions during the ERC on the Programme of Work, its strategic focus and the Regional Initiatives.
4. The results of discussions and recommendations stemming from the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish are to be used as a basis for preparation of the topics of the ERC for policy discussion and adoption as well as preparation of the priorities for the region.
5. In order to include the priorities identified by the regional technical commissions on forests and fisheries in the Report of the Regional Conference to the FAO Council, reports from outcomes of debates of the EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish sessions will be presented as individual ERC agenda items under "Other matters". The results and activities of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) are also captured as an information agenda item.
6. The 30th Session of the ERC in 2016 endorsed the MYPOW for the 2016-2019 period considering the request from the 29th session for having improved measurable indicators and targets in order for the MYPOW to be a genuine results-based tool.
7. The MYPOW version set out below is a slightly revised version, capturing also the work of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish).

II. RESULTS

A. Priority setting, organizational structure and budget planning

8. Result 1:
 - ERC recommendations and guidance on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets, as well as on the regional situation and issues pertaining to food security and nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development, sustainability, climate change and FAO cross-cutting themes, taken up, as appropriate, by the Council and the Conference as a sound basis for their decisions.

9. Indicators and targets:

- Clear and specific recommendations made by the ERC to the Council through the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets in the region.
- ERC recommendations relating to regional priorities, regional initiatives, FAO's Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB), are reflected in the Council and Conference reports.
- ERC guidance on regional issues receives due attention in the Council and Conference, as well as in other relevant meetings of governing bodies.

10. Outputs:

- Clear, precise and consensual recommendations to the Council on priorities, programmes, organizational structure and budgets for the region defined by the ERC.
- Regional priorities and initiatives defined by the ERC in alignment with the Strategic Objectives at Outcome level and reflected in the PWB for the region contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

11. Activities:

- Review the decisions and recommendations from relevant technical commissions and meetings in the region and incorporate their findings in the ERC Report as appropriate.
- Assess the performance of the Organization in the region by reviewing past programme implementation and achievements of the Strategic Objectives (at Outcome level), Regional Initiatives as well as completion of Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and put forward relevant recommendations in the ERC Report.
- Review the effectiveness and efficiency of the decentralized structure (network of FAO offices) in support of country programmes, taking account of related performance indicators and pertinent evaluations and put forward relevant recommendations in the ERC Report.
- Make recommendations on the plans and programmes carried out by the Organization in the region, including specific priorities for FAO's work.

12. Working methods:

- Collaboration among Members in the region through the ERC Chairperson, the Secretariat and the Executive Committees of the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish during the intersessional period.
- Regular contacts and informal consultations, as appropriate, among Members and between the ERC Chairperson and the Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, including informal coordination meetings between the secretariats of the regional technical commissions (especially ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish), to foster dialogue during the intersessional period.
- Liaison with relevant statutory bodies and other institutions in the region during the intersessional period.

B. Monitoring of, and advice on, policy and regulatory matters

13. Result 2:

- ERC recommendations on regional policy and regulatory matters provide a sound basis for decisions by the Conference.

14. Indicators and targets:

- ERC recommendations taken up by the Conference.
- Clear action-oriented recommendations included in the ERC report.
- ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish advice on regional aspects of global policy and regulatory matters considered when defining the ERC session agenda.

15. Outputs:

- Clear policy recommendations for the Conference on regional policy and regulatory frameworks.

16. Activities:

- Review of regional and global trends in policies and regulations of relevance to the region.
- Address any new and emerging issues and recommend possible concerted action by FAO and other relevant bodies in the Europe and Central Asia Region.
- In deciding on ERC agenda items for policy and regulatory matters:
 - consider the recommendations from FAO statutory bodies such as regional technical commissions and other meetings of relevance to the region;
 - review the status of key international instruments of relevance to the region, and major developments and initiatives in other fora having an impact on the mandate of FAO.

17. Working methods:

- Regular liaison with relevant FAO statutory bodies and other institutions in the region.
- Informal consultations with Members as appropriate to foster dialogue during the intersessional period.
- Collaboration among Members in the region through the ERC Chairperson, the Secretariat and the Executive Committees of the ECA, EFC, EIFAAC and CACFish during the intersessional period.

C. Work planning and working methods

18. Result 3:

- The ERC operates efficiently, in a results-oriented, proactive and inclusive way, according to established work plans and improved working methods.

19. Indicators and targets:

- ERC agendas are focused.
- ERC documents have a standardized cover page, with a box suggesting proposed action, and are made available in the required languages six weeks before the session commences.
- ERC reports are concise, consisting mainly of conclusions, decisions and recommendations, and are made available to Members soon after the closure of the session.

20. Outputs:

- A MYPOW for the ERC.
- Methods of work of the Regional Conference regularly reviewed and improvements sought.

21. Activities:

- Prepare the ERC MYPOW, with performance indicators and progress reports, for presentation to the Council and Conference on the MYPOW.
- Consult with Members on agenda and format of the ERC through the Executive Committees of the ECA and the Europe Regional Group of Permanent Representatives (ERG).
- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including enhanced focus and efficient use of time available.
- Review of the status of implementation of ERC recommendations.
- Review, as needed, the Rules of Procedure for the ERC as well as the methods of work.

22. Working methods:

- Structured and focused deliberations during ERC sessions.
- Efficient drafting arrangements for the ERC report, based on conclusions made by the ERC Chairperson in closing and summing up each item.
- Consultations among Members, through the ERC Chairperson and Executive Committees of the ECA and the ERG for continuity between biennial meetings with support from the secretariat.
- ERC Secretariat support to the implementation of, and follow-up to, the MYPOW.
- Informal meetings of the ERG Chairperson and senior members of the secretariat, facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council.