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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

Executive Summary

At its 22nd Session in 2010, the Committee on Agriculture “agreed that FAO actively engage in consultations to continue the global dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to sharpen the definition of the sector’s objectives, taking into account the disparities between production systems, the proliferation of private standards, countries’ economic development, role of smallholders, importance of export, and status of natural resources. Such consultations should help identify issues that could require intergovernmental action”.

In response to the above guidance, FAO has been acting as a convenor for a multi-stakeholder partnership building a “Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock” since 2011. The Global Agenda was endorsed by COAG at its 23rd Session in 2012 as a valid mechanism to inform, guide, and enrich FAO’s intergovernmental processes. COAG also endorsed FAO’s central role in the Global Agenda. The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock is committed to sustainable livestock sector development. The Agenda partnership enhances the shared understanding of livestock sector development issues and builds consensus on the pathways towards sustainable outcomes through dialogue, building evidence, and practice and policy change.

This partnership currently consists of a wide range of stakeholders who are engaged in the livestock sector and who subscribe to the Sustainable Development Goals as their targets. Partners collaborate in action networks that target work across cluster and target particular thematic and regional issues. A number of these action networks have already produced tangible results.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- 1) Consider the appropriateness of the governance of the Agenda with currently seven stakeholder clusters.

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- 2) Consider the roles of FAO: as a convener, as an intergovernmental stakeholder, as a programmatic collaborator, as the secretariat (administrative and operational support).
- 3) Consider the appropriateness of the linkage of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and the SDGs.

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I. Introduction

1. At its 22nd Session in 2010, “*the Committee agreed that FAO actively engage in consultations to continue the global dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to sharpen the definition of the sector’s objectives, taking into account the disparities between production systems, the proliferation of private standards, countries’ economic development, role of small holders, importance of export, and status of natural resources*”¹.
2. *The Committee requested that FAO, together with actors at all levels, establish the research, technical, institutional, financial and policy conditions necessary for the delivery of goods and services from the livestock sector which would support food security, nutrition, livelihoods, economic development, environmental sustainability and public health.*
3. *The Committee confirmed that FAO, within its capacity and mandate, is in a position to address in a balanced and holistic manner the complex social, economic and environmental issues and trade-offs associated with the sector, including climate change considerations*².
4. In response to the above guidance, FAO has been acting as a convener for a multi-stakeholder partnership building a “Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock” since 2011.
5. The Global Agenda was endorsed by COAG at its 23rd Session in 2012 as a valid mechanism to inform, guide, and enrich FAO’s intergovernmental processes. At its 24th session in 2014, the Committee “*noted the Agenda set-up and governance system and requested FAO to further consider issues raised by the Committee on the global Agenda, including coordination with other initiatives, representation, membership and clarification of roles, and report to the next COAG session; and “welcomed the options to mobilize additional Members, other partners and resources for the implementation of the Agenda*”³.
6. This partnership currently consists of a wide range of stakeholders who are engaged in the livestock sector and who subscribe to the Sustainable Development Goals as their targets. Partners collaborate in action networks across stakeholder clusters, targeting particular thematic and regional issues. For 2016-18, the Agenda partnership adopted an Action Plan, focusing on dialogue, evidence and practice and policy change:
 - a) The Global Agenda offers a dynamic and inclusive platform for sustainable livestock policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action at global, regional and national levels, supporting the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
 - b) The Global Agenda offers useful tools and robust analytical evidence facilitating the dialogue process to arrive at policies, strategies and frameworks in support to sustainable livestock development.
 - c) The Global Agenda stakeholders achieve local practice and policy change (PPC), focusing on continuous, context specific improvement and innovation and promoting livestock sector investments and project development.

II. Achievements of the Global Agenda

7. The size and complexity of improving the livestock sector’s sustainability has led to the recognition that this task can be more significantly and effectively tackled through concerted action by all stakeholder groups. Given the public good nature of the sector’s environmental, social and economic challenges and its increasing economic integration, collective global action is needed. Starting in 2011, stakeholders from all relevant parts of the livestock sector have thus formed a

¹ CL/140/3 para.13 –

² As above

³ C 2015/21 – para. 12 e)-f)

partnership to develop a Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. Currently, the partnership comprises 77 stakeholders, including 16 governmental. The list of the present members of the Global Agenda is shown on its website at <http://www.livestockdialogue.org/>.

8. The Global Agenda is built on the expertise, experience and skills of a wide range of stakeholders and has explored approaches such as: participative policy development; roundtables; technology and knowledge exchange initiatives; and creative forms of capacity development. Some of its main outputs achieved so far include the following:

- a) Establishment of a Multi-Stakeholders Partnership with the active engagement of Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Donors, Academia, NGOs, as well as Inter-governmental and Multilateral Organizations, to facilitate stakeholder dialogue and concerted action in support of a sustainable livestock sector.
- b) A structure to support and guide the Global Agenda has been developed: this set-up and governance structure includes a Guiding Group and its supporting constituencies (stakeholder clusters), a growing number of Action Networks, and a Technical Support Team.
- c) A series (six) of Multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) meetings have been held, which have built consensus, shared knowledge and developed a shared vision: Brasilia and Phuket 2011 – Nairobi 2012 – Ottawa 2013 – Cali 2014 – Panama 2016. At the last MSP meeting, the stakeholders committed to the Panama Declaration, in particular to:
 - Support the Sustainable Development Goals and recognize them as the overarching framework of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock.
 - Engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue for consensus building from local to global levels, and in stakeholder initiatives and action networks.
 - Take an integrated approach to sustainable livestock that includes consideration of livelihoods, social impacts, public health and animal welfare, environmental impacts, land use and tenure, and biodiversity.
 - Build tools for integrated decision-making that reflect livestock systems' diversity and different contexts and priorities.
 - Contribute to policy reforms, institutional development and investments for sustaining practice change.
 - Continue to review progress on a regular basis.
- d) Establishment of six Action Networks: Environmental Assessment methodologies, guidelines (through the Livestock Environment Assessment Partnership – LEAP); Closing the efficiency gap; Restoring value to grasslands; Waste to worth (targeting feed use of waste and productive use of livestock waste); Dairy Asia; and Global Network on Silvopastoral Systems. Some of these networks have already achieved tangible results and been adopted by a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. environmental assessment guidelines, efficiency analysis, guidelines for grassland management, knowledge transfer in Dairy Asia).
- e) Additional knowledge networks have been proposed or are being developed including on a sustainability framework, One Health, Livestock and Poverty (SDG#1), animal welfare, and promoting investments in sustainable livestock.
- f) Advocacy on the importance of sustainable livestock sector in the process of developing the UN Agenda 2030 and at policy level.

III. Set up and governance of the Global Agenda

9. The Global Agenda coordination and collaboration structure is based on the principles of a dynamic, open, inclusive, regionally balanced multi-stakeholder initiative aiming at consensus. Following COAG recommendations, the Global Agenda has agreed to a set of rules and procedures,

developed with the assistance of FAO's Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC)⁴.

10. In pursuing improvements in its governance structure and being a learning initiative, the Global Agenda partnership has adopted a coordination and collaboration structure consisting of:

- a) **Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP).** An open and inclusive MSP for dialogue and consensus building on priority issues and actions.
- b) **Guiding Group (GG).** A GG to provide overall direction, guidance and monitoring, consisting of stakeholder representatives selected by seven stakeholder clusters. The GG will consist of up to five representatives from each of the following constituency stakeholder clusters:
 - **Public sector.** Representatives from governments
 - **Private sector.** Representatives from private sector organizations
 - **Academia/research.** Representatives from research organizations and universities
 - **Donors.** Representatives from monetary contributors to the Global Agenda's Trust Fund
 - **NGOs.** Representatives from interest groups such as animal welfare and environmental or livelihood non-governmental organizations
 - **Social movements and community-based organizations.** Representatives of pastoralists; indigenous people; agricultural workers; small farmers and peasants
 - **Inter-governmental and Multilateral organizations.** Institutions that have a mandate in livestock sector development, e.g. World Bank, CGIAR, OIE, FAO, WHO, UNEP, AU-IBAR, represented by the Livestock Global Alliance as appropriate.

11. The role of the Guiding Group is, hence, one of strategy and policy development, provision of guidance, monitoring and oversight. Decisions are made by consensus.

12. The Agenda Technical Support Team (AST) acts as the secretariat, provides technical and operational support, facilitates stakeholder engagement and ensures a coherent approach. According to COAG guidance, the AST is provided by FAO. The AST is mainly supported by voluntary contributions.

13. FAO's role: in addition to its role as a convener, FAO is also engaged as a stakeholder stressing the dual objectives of food security and the elimination of poverty. FAO also has programmatic and technical collaboration with many partners of the Global Agenda, increasing the quality and applicability of our products.

14. The Agenda integrates perspectives across scales and actors, and facilitates knowledge sharing on technology, good practices, policies and institutions by building networks and accompanying knowledge exchange infrastructure. Agenda-related activities contribute to achievement of all five of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SO) through increased food security and sustainable diets (SO1), the transition to sustainable agricultural sector production systems (SO2), support to the reduction of rural poverty (SO3), more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SO4), and the resilience of livestock-dependent livelihoods (SO5).

4

http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/2016/2016_GASL_rules_and_procedu res.pdf

IV. Livestock and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – major linkages

15. Within the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, FAO provides guidance for developing sustainable practices in food and agriculture through its Sustainable Food and Agriculture (SFA) approach.

16. The SFA views the livestock sector serving human needs while affecting natural systems. Livestock systems have developed over millennia and are continuously adapting to very diverse conditions. Livestock use natural resources (land, water, biodiversity, forests, fish, nutrients and energy) and environmental services and transform them into agricultural products (food, feed, fibre, manure, traction) that serve not only immediate needs but also provide economic and social services (food security, economic growth and poverty reduction, health and cultural value). Multiple interactions occur to which livestock systems need to respond. Approaches to sustainability therefore need to address the interactions and trade-offs, and target practice change at local level.

17. Expanding on the SFA approach, the SDGs could therefore be broadly grouped into those that describe people's needs and aspirations (no poverty, zero hunger, good health and education, gender equality, reduced overall inequality, and peace and justice); those that describe environmental or "planet" requirements (water, energy, marine systems, land and biodiversity, and climate); and those that describe desirable processes by which to achieve a better balance. While not clear-cut in many places, such differentiation could be a way of making the 17 SDGs more accessible. A draft synthesis of major linkages between livestock and the SDGs is provided on the Agenda's website at http://www.livestockdialogue.org/fileadmin/templates/res_livestock/docs/2016/Panama/FAO-AGAL_synthesis_Panama_Livestock_and_SDGs.pdf

18. SDG linkages are many, revealing the diversity and complexity of livestock systems, and the different purposes they fulfil. The importance of these linkages varies among countries and location. Efforts to address one Goal will typically have impacts on others. To achieve the 17 SDGs, 169 targets have been identified. Achieving the SDGs will require analysing these targets and how they link together, and prioritizing them to address national and local specificities. Indicators are essential in order to measure progress. Based on such indicator frameworks with SDG targets, countries can develop management tools and implementation strategies. A key aspect is on developing integrated and site-specific tools.

V. Suggested action by the Committee

19. The Committee is invited to:

- 1) Consider the appropriateness of the governance of the Agenda with currently seven stakeholder clusters;
- 2) Consider the roles of FAO: as a convener, as an intergovernmental stakeholder, as a programmatic collaborator, as the secretariat (administrative and operational support);
- 3) Consider the appropriateness of the linkage of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and the SDGs.