



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  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirtieth Session

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

**Ministerial Round Table - The SDG 2030 Agenda: Delivering Sustainable  
Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa**

### I. Introduction

1. On 25 September 2015, at the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit in New York, the UN's 193 Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets to be achieved globally by 2030. Over the next 15 years, the SDG 2030 Agenda is expected to guide the development actions of all UN Member States, the UN system agencies, funds, programmes and allied organizations and institutions.

2. The SDG 2030 Agenda was shaped through one of the largest multistakeholder consultations in recent years, and was forged during intergovernmental discussions that began immediately after the conclusion of the 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development. It integrates two other major agreements of 2015: the Paris Climate Agreement, a global treaty to limit climate change; and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is a framework for financial and non-financial means of implementation.

3. The SDGs are designed to tackle the great global development challenges of modern times, with the ultimate ambition of ending poverty and hunger for good, and ushering in an era of sustainable development in its three dimensions – social, economic and environmental.

4. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, held in July 2017 in New York, provided an overview of the progress made towards the SDG 2030 Agenda. It reviewed in depth national progress and the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17, and gave further guidance to the follow-up and review process of the SDG 2030 Agenda. The HLPF gave strong emphasis to the role of sustainable food and agriculture systems in sustainable development and called for focused actions to be put in place in support to smallholders. It noted that national governments are committed to the transformative nature of the SDG 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. Hence, countries have

*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](http://www.fao.org)*



ARC30

begun internalizing SDGs into their national strategies and planning processes, and coordinating within/among ministries. Policy-making is becoming increasingly aligned with national budgets. Multistakeholder engagement is also increasing and partnerships are gaining momentum. While progress was noted globally in addressing poverty, hunger and malnutrition, these three areas remain the overarching challenges of the SDG 2030 Agenda with deteriorating trends in some regions. In this context, the forthcoming Regional Fora for Sustainable Development and the HLPF in July 2018 are valuable occasions to present policy priorities and recommendations flagged during this Round Table.

5. Moreover, it is clear that the SDGs cannot be achieved without addressing migration. As highlighted by the Secretary-General in his report "Making migration work for all", the global compact on safe, regular and orderly migration (to be adopted by December 2018) is key to achieving the call contained in SDG 10, to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through "planned and well-managed migration policies", as part of a wider push to reduce inequality within and between states.

6. At the regional level, the African Union adopted in January 2015 the Agenda 2063 – a shared strategic continental framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. A first Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023) was developed and adopted in June 2014, dubbed the Malabo Declaration on "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods". The Malabo Declaration includes commitments to: (i) the principles and values of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process; and (ii) enhance investment finance in agriculture; commitments to (iii) ending hunger by 2025; (iv) halving poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation; (v) boosting intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services; (vi) enhancing resilience in livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other shocks; and (vii) mutual accountability to actions and results. These aspirations and their corresponding priority areas are fully aligned with the SDG targets.

## **II. Expected results**

7. The Ministerial Round Table offers an opportunity to discuss how the 17 SDGs and targets align with those of the Malabo Declaration, particularly in terms of sustainable development priorities for the Africa region, and how best to harmonize efforts to achieve the goals laid out by the two processes. The Round Table will provide a forum to discuss progress made by countries to implement the SDGs and the Malabo Declaration within the context of delivering sustainable agriculture growth and rural transformation in Africa. It will also identify key challenges, gaps, opportunities and collaborative efforts to implementation, with a particular focus on the role of sustainable food and agriculture systems in achieving sustainable development in the context of global and regional emerging trends, such as migration.

8. Furthermore, this forum will identify opportunities for aligning the result frameworks of the SDGs and the CAADP/Malabo. To avoid duplication of efforts, in view of resource limitations at all levels, the alignment may seek to focus initially on policy and institutional coordination mechanisms required at the high-level to achieve an alignment of the result frameworks. For example, a component of the discussion could focus on harmonizing the indicator for monitoring progress in achieving zero hunger under the SDG and CAADP/Malabo processes.

### **A. Round Table organization**

9. The overall theme of the Round Table is "The SDG 2030 Agenda: Delivering Sustainable Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa".

10. Following the introduction, there will be a keynote speech which will be followed by statements of panellists. After their interventions, the floor will be opened for questions/comments and panellists will have an opportunity to respond.

### **The keynote speech and the panellists' first intervention focus**

- a) What are the main challenges, gaps and opportunities in sustainable agricultural growth and rural transformation facing the region in the coming decades? Are they well reflected in the SDGs?
- b) Is the region implementing the SDG 2030 Agenda? Is it well aligned with the Malabo Declaration? What must be done to harmonize the two processes?
- c) How can we accelerate implementation of the SDGs and the Malabo framework? What are the key constraints and how should they be addressed?

### **Issues that could be discussed**

- a) What are country experiences in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda specifically with respect to innovative resource mobilization to implement the SDG 2030 Agenda, including its commitment to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect of human rights for all?
- b) How can agriculture best contribute to achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 2 on “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and SDG 1: "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"?
- c) What are the gaps in policy, institutional and organizational capacities to implement, monitor and report annually on the SDGs?
- d) The recommendations from the Ministerial Round Table sessions will be included in the Report of the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa as matters to be brought to the attention of the FAO Conference and Council and the Heads of State of the African Union.

### **Agenda and participants**

	Chair: Minister from Senegal
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and introduction of participants: Mr David Phiri, Subregional Coordinator, FAO Subregional Office for Southern Africa, Moderator
	Opening remarks: Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Africa
9:10 – 9:20	Overview: Dr Belay Begashaw, Director General, Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, SDGC/A
9:20 – 9:30	PowerPoint presentation: Ms Brave Ndisale, FAO Strategic Programme Leader – SPL1

---

9:30 – 9:45	Panel discussion: five panellists (three minutes per intervention) from African Union Commission (AUC) and one UN Agency
9:45 – 10:00	Open discussions: Experiences and Perspectives from the countries, AUC and Ministers  Closure: Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Africa