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Food and Agriculture  
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Organisation des Nations  
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Продовольственная и  
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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# CONFERENCE

## Thirty-ninth Session

Rome, 6-13 June 2015

**Input from the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America  
(Washington, D.C., United States of America, 15-16 April 2014)**

### I. Introductory Items

#### *Organization of the Conference*

1. The third FAO informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) was held in Washington, D.C., on April 15-16, 2014.
2. Representatives from the United States and Canada participated in the Conference. Two members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) management participated remotely via digital videoconference and teleconference. Four FAO staff from the FAO Liaison Office for North America attended and the Team Leader from the Independent Review of Governance Reform Review Team of the FAO participated in person. A complete list of Conference participants is provided in *Appendix A*.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda*

3. The Conference adopted the agenda, as provided in *Appendix B*.

#### *Statements by the United States of America and Canada*

4. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs Nerissa Cook welcomed the delegates to the U.S. Department of State and emphasized the importance of collaboration among the United States, Canada, and the FAO toward the goal of achieving food security for all, while promoting greater efficiencies and avoiding duplication of efforts.
5. Mr Phil Karsting, Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, underscored USDA's high-level commitment to supporting the FAO's mission. He highlighted priority areas of U.S. concern, including: food security, sound policy, plant protection and pesticide use, animal health and food safety, management of plant genetic resources and biodiversity, policy assistance with the WTO, sustainable management of forests and fisheries, data provision, emergency support, and budget and governance.
6. Mr Frédéric Seppey, Chief Agriculture Negotiator and Director General of Trade and Negotiations Directorate at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided a statement on behalf of Canada, and stressed the importance of coordination of North American engagement with the FAO in areas of common interest – including supporting countries' adoption of science-based standards.

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## II. North American Priorities

### *Biotechnology as a Programmatic Priority*

7. Dr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department presented an overview of FAO's work on biotechnology in the context of increasing agricultural production.

8. The Conference appreciated the work of the FAO on biotechnology, particularly as a leading proponent of unbiased and sound science in agriculture; reaffirmed that innovation including biotechnology will be needed to close the agricultural productivity gap by 2050, conserve natural resources, and achieve food security for all; took into account the specific benefits that biotechnology offers to millions of producers, including smallholders who already use these technologies; and urged FAO to update its statement on biotechnology, using a science-based approach to reflect a fact-based, up-to-date perspective.

9. The Conference reaffirmed that the United States and Canada will continue to work together with FAO to support the development and adoption of science-based standards.

### *Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and Medium-Term Plan 2014-17*

10. Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the FAO Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, presented an update on FAO's implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) in regards to the North American Regional Priorities identified in 2012, giving an overview of priorities in the PWB for the current biennium.

11. The Conference appreciated the work of FAO under the new strategic framework; encouraged continuity of the current strategic framework; reaffirmed its support for the FAO's role in addressing food insecurity; supported the continued emphasis on finding efficiencies in the PWB; looked forward to reviewing the revised indicators, including input from the technical committees on the Results Framework of the reviewed Medium Term Plan; encouraged increased efforts to improve cross-sectoral dialogue, including communication and coordination among the Strategic Objective Coordinators, FAO's various technical committees, and FAO representation in the field; took note of the importance of including the outcomes of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the planning process for the next biennium (2016-2017); and stressed that the priorities expressed in the reports of the Regional Conferences, including those from the FAO informal Regional Conference for North America, must be taken into account when preparing and implementing the PWB.

12. The Conference requested that the FAO prepare a report on the progress of implementation of North American Regional priorities, as articulated in *Appendix C*, to be received in advance of the fourth FAO informal Regional Conference for North America in 2016.

## III. Engagement with FAO Liaison Office for North America

13. Mr Nick Nelson, Director of the FAO Liaison Office for North America (FAO-LOW), gave a presentation on the role and work of the Liaison Office to date.

14. The Conference highlighted the need for better engagement between FAO-LOW and North America, specifically including the implementation of a concrete plan for engagement with Canadian officials and stakeholders; and encouraged its continued emphasis on innovative partnerships in the North American Region with multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector.

## IV. Technical Committees and Other Core Priorities

15. The Conference expressed North American priorities and interests on the various FAO technical committees and other core meetings, including the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention/Commission of

Phytosanitary Measures, and the Technical Consultation on Low Levels of Genetically Modified Crops in International Food and Feed Trade.

16. The Conference commended and encouraged the development of international standards through the use of science and evidence-based processes; and noted the importance of increased cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination among FAO departments and among the technical committees.

17. The Conference noted that participants would consider proposing an additional indicator focused on ecosystem services under Strategic Objective 2 at the Committee on Forestry.

## **V. Partnerships**

18. The Conference discussed the implementation of the FAO Partnership Strategies with Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector to date; stressed the importance of their implementation, especially at the country level; discussed the proposed updated rules and procedures for participation of civil society organizations and private sector representatives in FAO meetings; and looked forward to Member States' consideration of this issue in the near future.

## **VI. Independent Review of FAO Governance Reform**

19. Independent Review of FAO Governance Reform Team Leader Maxine Olson gave a presentation on the role of the Review Team and their progress thus far in assessing the workings of the governance reforms through observation of the various FAO Regional Conferences and other FAO Governing Bodies.

20. The Conference appreciated the ongoing work of the Independent Review Team in carrying out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms as identified in the Immediate Plan of Action; acknowledged the important contributions of Regional Conferences to FAO governance, policy, and regulatory issues with region-specific priorities and recommendations; and noted the value of the flexibility afforded by the informal nature of the North American Regional Conference.

## **VII. Any Other Issues**

### *Date of the fourth FAO informal Regional Conference for North America*

21. The Conference noted with satisfaction the offer of the Government of Canada to host the fourth FAO informal Regional Conference for North America to be held in 2016.

## **Concluding Remarks**

### *Adoption of the Report*

22. The Conference adopted the Report.

**Appendix A****iNARC 2014 List of Attendees**

## Hosts

- Nerissa Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Phil Karsting, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Co-Chairs:

- Natalie E. Brown, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
- Frédéric Seppey, Director General and Chief Agriculture Negotiator, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

## Ottawa

- 1) Alison Clement, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- 2) Lisa Guindon, Senior Multilateral Affairs Officer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 3) Jessica Thomson, Senior Policy Advisor, Natural Resources Canada

## Canadian Embassy in Rome

- 4) Debra Price, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN Food and Agriculture Organizations
- 5) Eric Robinson, Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN Food and Agriculture Organizations

## U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome

- 6) George Douvelis, Acting Counselor for Agriculture, USDA, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
- 7) Greg Groth, Alternate Permanent Representative, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome

## FAO Headquarters (by video conference)

- 8) Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department
- 9) Mr Boyd Haight, Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management

## FAO Liaison Office for North America

- 10) Nick Nelson, Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America
- 11) Barbara Ekwall, Senior Liaison Officer, FAO Liaison Office for North America
- 12) Gabriel Laizer, Partnerships and Outreach, FAO Liaison Office for North America
- 13) Amy McMillan, Partnerships and Outreach, FAO Liaison Office for North America

## USDA Washington

- 14) Laura Anderson, Senior Advisor, Multilateral Affairs Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
- 15) Jennifer Conje, Policy Advisor, U.S. Forest Service, International Programs
- 16) Wendell Dennis, Deputy Director, Multilateral Affairs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
- 17) Pesach (Pace) Lubinsky, Science Advisor New Technologies & Production Methods Division, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 18) Suzanne Palmieri, Associate Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA
- 19) Geoff Wiggins, Deputy Administrator, Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs, USDA

- 20) Julia Aliaga, International Standards Program Director, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA

State Department in Washington

- 21) Nick Artuso, Desk Officer for Canada, Western Hemispheres Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 22) Mary Blanca Rios, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Management, Policy and Resources, Bureau of International Organizations Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 23) April Cohen, Human Rights Unit Chief, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State (note: future Alternate Permanent Representative, U.S. Mission)
- 24) Amy Diggs, Agriculture, Biotechnology, Textile Trade Affairs, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 25) Jeffrey Golladay, Office of Human Security Intern, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 26) Kelly Juarez, Economic/Commercial Officer, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 27) Oliva Lopez, Secretary's Office Global Food Security (S/GFS), U.S. Department of State
- 28) Stephen O'Dowd, Director, Office of Human Security, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 29) Mark Rosmann, Secretary's Office Global Food Security (S/GFS), U.S. Department of State
- 30) Vanessa Tantillo, Food Security Officer, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 31) John Tuminaro, Senior Food Security Advisor, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- 32) Deirdre Warner Kramer, Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State

USAID Washington

- 33) Natalie Freeman, Senior Development Officer, Feed the Future, USAID

IRGR

- 34) Maxine Olson, IRGR Team Member

Canadian Embassy, Washington

- 35) Brad Wood, First Secretary (Agriculture and Fisheries) Embassy of Canada to the U.S.

## Appendix B

**Third informal North American Regional Conference of the FAO****Harry S. Truman Building Room 4517****Washington, D.C.****April 15-16, 2014****- Provisional Agenda -****Co-Chairs:****Natalie Brown**, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome**Frédéric Seppey**, Director General of Trade and Negotiations Directorate from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

09:15 Welcoming Remarks and Opening Statements

- *Nerissa Cook (USA), Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State, will make opening remarks*
- *Phil Karsting (USA), Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will make opening remarks*
- *Frédéric Seppey (Canada), Director General of Trade and Negotiations Directorate from AAFC, will make a statement*

09:55 Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

- *John Tuminaro (USA) will outline proposed agenda for the next 1.5 days.*

**Session 1 – N.A. Priorities**

10:00 Biotechnology as a programmatic priority

- *George Douvelis (USA) will provide brief opening remarks*
- *Ren Wang (FAO) via teleconference, will provide an overview of FAO's work on Biotechnology, followed by discussion*

10:45 15 minute break

11:00 Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and Medium-term Plan 2014-2017

- *John Tuminaro (USA) will provide brief opening remarks*
- *Boyd Haight (FAO), via video conference, will provide an update of FAO's implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget in regards to N.A. priorities, and give an overview of expected priorities in the PWB for the next biennium followed by discussion*

12:00 Conclusions, Next Steps and Recommendations from Session 1

- *Vanessa Tantillo (USA) will provide a summary of Session 1.*

12:15 15 minute break

**Session 2 – Engagement with FAO Liaison Office Washington**

- 12:30 Lunch (hosted)
- Presentation: The role of the Washington Liaison Office, and their upcoming work plan
- *Vanessa Tantillo (USA) will provide brief opening remarks*
  - *Nick Nelson (FAO) will provide a presentation explaining the role of the liaison office and their upcoming work plan, including engagement with Canada.*
  - *Following the presentation, a discussion will be held on how our region can effectively engage with the liaison office.*
- 13:30 Conclusions, Next Steps and Recommendations from Session 2
- *Vanessa Tantillo (USA) Vanessa Tantillo (USA) will provide a summary of Session 2*
- 13:45 15 minute break

**Session 3 – Technical Committees and Core Priorities**

- 14:00 Colleagues will provide express N.A. priorities and interests for the various FAO Technical Committees and guide discussion on N.A. strategic objectives for upcoming meetings:
- COAG – George Douvelis (USDA/FAS)*
  - COFI – Deirdre Warner-Kramer (State)*
  - COFO – Jennifer Conje (USDA/FS)*
  - CCP – Eric Robinson (Canada)*
  - Codex – Lisa Guindon (Canada)*
  - IPPC/CPM – John Greifer (USDA/APHIS)*
  - LLP Technical Consultation – Eric Robinson (Canada)*
- 15:45 Conclusions, Next Steps and Recommendations from Session 3
- *Vanessa Tantillo (USA) will provide a summary of Session 3.*
- 16:00 15 minute break
- 16:15 Closed NA Regional Group Session
- 17:30 Adjourn Day 1
- 18:00 No-host dinner at Dish Restaurant 924 25th St NW, Washington, D.C.

**Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

- 09:30 Continued Closed NA Regional Group Session

**Session 4 – Independent Review of FAO Governance Reform (IRGR)**

- 10:30 IRGR Team Member Update
- *Greg Groth will provide brief opening remarks and introduce Maxine Olson, IRGR Team Member.*

- *Maxine Olson will describe the background of the IRGR, talk about the role of the Review Team, and discuss their approach to analyzing the FAO reform process. She will canvas our views on three main issues: 1) the progress made by FAO and the GBs implementing the IPA-related governance reforms; 2) the results of the reforms so far; and 3) what remains to be done and what could/should be done differently to improve efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's GBs.*

11:30 Conclusions, Next Steps and Recommendations from Session 4

- *Vanessa Tantillo (USA) will provide a summary of Session 4.*

### **Session 5 – Any Other Issues**

11:45 Date of the fourth informal North American Regional Conference 2016

12:00 15 minute break

12:15 Lunch (hosted): Closed NA Regional Group Session

14:30 Closing Remarks

- *Frédéric Seppey (Canada) will provide closing remarks*
- *Natalie Brown (USA) will provide closing remarks*

15:00 Adjournment



## Appendix C

### A. Strategic Objective 1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

Focus on promoting sustainable improvements in food security and nutrition, especially among women, children and youth, nutritionally vulnerable households and populations such as infants and pregnant/lactating women.

**Key Implementation Items:**

- *Provide information, assessments and analysis to combat hunger and reduce malnutrition.*
- *Collaborate with appropriate partners utilizing existing mechanisms (SUN<sup>1</sup> and 1,000 Days) in assisting Members to identify food insecure populations and those vulnerable to nutrition-related problems.*
- *Promote food safety/quality and nutritional value.*
- *Prevent food-borne diseases; focus on consumer protection and fair practices in food trade.*

### B. Strategic Objective 2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

Contain and combat economically important animal diseases and pests, and reduce their economic impact and any associated human health risks. With regard to animal disease or animal genetic resources: international cooperation on disease and pest prevention, contingency planning for preparedness, and early warning and control are FAO's comparative advantage and consequently should be its priority focus. Promote the use of biotechnology to improve livestock and poultry.

Increase FAO's attention to innovative agricultural technologies – including biotechnology – which are critical tools to increase productivity and achieve a sustainable food supply. In addition to helping address food security challenges, these science-based technologies are powerful allies in mitigating climate change impacts by, for example, supporting agricultural practices that could improve sustainable and efficient agriculture.

In order to maintain sustainability of fisheries resources and secure the role of fisheries and aquaculture as an important contributor to food security, we support more focused efforts to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, primarily through the prioritization and development of effective policy guidance, good governance and the promotion of best practices.

Focus on the FAO's comparative advantage in forest resource monitoring/information and developing and promoting sustainable forest management practices, strategies and guidelines. Enhance cross-sectoral integration of forests with other issues, in particular food security and water.

We are committed to robust agricultural science systems that support teaching, extension and research. The FAO's role in advancing sustainable productivity through strong science-based human and institutional capacity, service and innovation is critical to meeting global food security goals.

**Key Implementation Items:**

- *Strengthen the capacity of the Commission on Genetic Resources and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to generate international standards; establish and promote effective information exchange systems among members; address the technical capacity of all member countries, especially developing member countries, to conserve and use genetic resources sustainably; and provide a sufficient and sustainable technical and administrative support structure to meet members' needs and priorities.*

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<sup>1</sup> Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative

- *Assist governments to better incorporate science and technology advice into their decision-making processes in an effective and consistent manner through the development of “best practices.”*
- *Effectively implement appropriate outcomes of Rio + 20 and integration of climate change adaptation considerations.*
- *Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, development of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, and development of guidance on traceability.*
- *Build capacity at the national and regional levels to support implementation of existing instruments, particularly the guidelines on bycatch management and reduction of discards.*
- *Develop and adopt a Plan of Action to guide the COFI Subcommittee on Aquaculture in its work to meet the shortfall in human needs for fish protein from wild capture fisheries.*
- *Increase focus on the FAO Forest Department’s forest resource monitoring and information, with emphasis on further incorporating remote sensing data; refining the designated functions (Country Report Table 3) and governance indicators of the Global Forest Resource Assessment; and further expanding the type of data collected to allow for an improved understanding of the full benefits that forests have to livelihoods and society.*
- *Continue Forest Department’s leadership as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which engages both member states and civil society through key international forest-related organizations and processes.*
- *Continue efforts to improve sustainable forest management practices, for example on wildfire management and forest climate change adaptation.*
- *Ensure sufficient resources (human & financial) are re-directed towards achieving the stated performance indicators required to address the sustainability of FAO’s plant protection programmes and the use of international standards. Efficient and resilient production systems using appropriate farming practices will be essential.*
- *Strengthen IPPC’s<sup>2</sup> capacity to generate international standards; establish and promote effective information exchange systems among members; address the technical capacity of all member countries, especially developing countries; and provide a sufficient and sustainable administrative support structure to meet its members’ needs and priorities.*

### **C. Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty**

Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development should be mainstreamed and managed by an empowered FAO Office of Partnerships that has a clear mandate to strengthen ties between FAO and a variety of relevant private sector partners. Enhance value-chain development in the food sectors to include smallholder farmers and small to medium-sized enterprises in addition to multinationals.

This work should take into account the Committee on World Food Security High Level Panel of Experts report “Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security.”

As identified in CSD-18<sup>3</sup> and Rio+20, the important links between urban food needs and rural food production is growing; urbanization in North America and around the world points to an urgent need to act. As recognized by the FAO, a fuller understanding of such linkages, including their resilience and vulnerabilities, will become more and more critical in the future.

#### **Key Implementation Items:**

- *Prioritize food safety data collection, food insecurity forecasting and early warning systems.*
- *Consider approaches to minimize waste and explore non-food applications of agricultural bio-products.*

<sup>2</sup> International Plant Protection Convention

<sup>3</sup> Commission on Sustainable Development

- *Continue to focus on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. Place a high priority on conducting research; promoting information on and advocacy of best practices; and assisting governments to adopt policies and laws on land tenure and governance.*
- *Completion of a set of Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Agricultural Investment that serves as a platform for promoting food security by improving investment in agriculture.*

#### **D. Strategic Objective 4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels**

Emphasize building effective frameworks for technology transfers and plant genetic resource management, including commercial planting seed systems. We support improving science and risk-based evaluation and regulation of new agricultural technologies – including biotechnology and climate-smart agriculture practices – and improving smallholder farmer access to technology.

Focus on providing technical and policy assistance in the analysis of food and agriculture markets and related impacts on food security; regional and global agricultural trade policy; and strategies and/or proposed policies to maximize smallholders' access to markets.

Promote the use of science-based measures and international standards to ensure predictable agri-food trade, particularly for innovative products derived from agricultural biotechnology. Increase the Organization's investment in member country capacity building to enhance the development, use and compliance with internationally-agreed, science-based regulatory standards. Continue working with the WHO on implementing Codex Alimentarius Commission programming activities and on improving the direction of the Organization. Focus on reinforcing technical capacity development at the institutional level.

The FAO should facilitate an enabling environment for governments and other stakeholders to improve the international frameworks, standards and guidance for new agriculture technologies - including biotechnology. Dialogue from such an enabling environment could help reduce costs for food importing countries; stimulate the investment required to deliver inclusive and efficient trade; and develop new market opportunities and minimize impediments to trade.

##### **Key Implementation Items:**

- *Continue capacity building and normative work on improving post-harvest practices to improve yield; market access; and food safety and quality.*
- *Increase capacity building activities in targeted countries, particularly those least-developed, to develop the trade-related skills and infrastructure needed to implement and benefit from WTO agreements and expand their trade.*
- *Further analyze and raise awareness about the contribution that innovative agricultural biotechnologies will continue to have on food security and sustainability.*
- *Establish a leadership role in promoting the movement and exchange of food and agriculture plant and livestock genetic resources, including frameworks that facilitate access and benefit sharing of these genetic resources.*
- *Ensure that the Codex Secretariat has strong management, including by filling key positions, to follow the founding principles of Codex.*
- *Support joint FAO/WHO expert committees by restoring their funding to adequate levels.*
- *Continue assessing existing capacity among member countries in order to enhance, as appropriate, their abilities to develop, use and comply with internationally-agreed, science-based regulatory standards.*
- *Support the development and improvement of regulatory systems among member countries to enable greater synchronization of approvals of new genetically modified crops, and promote appropriate, risk-based policies for dealing with Low-Level Presence (LLP).*
- *Enhance the functionality of the FAO database for genetically modified food safety assessments, and promote the use of the database and Codex LLP annex in dealing with LLP when it does occur.*

### **E. Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises**

Focus on the provision of global information, advocacy and risk management of environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture. Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and the strengthening of partnerships with relevant international institutions, focusing on exchanges, dissemination, development, and application of agricultural genetic resources.

Focus on the provision of knowledge, policy and technical advice/assessment; agriculture rehabilitation and extended recovery; and de-emphasize the stockpiling and delivery of supplies. Engage in policy dialogue on political actions and policies to improve food security and nutrition before, during and after crisis situations.

Focus on FAO's role in responding to emergencies and building resilience in vulnerable populations, particularly as part of the UN "cluster" system. The FAO has a critical role to play in disaster preparedness, prevention, early warning, and mitigation in the food and agriculture sector. FAO's tripartite "One Health" cooperation with the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health is critical for global health security.

Implement key policy instruments on biodiversity and strengthen FAO partnerships with relevant international institutions focusing on the exchange of genetic resources.

#### **Key Implementation Items:**

- *Prioritize Avian Influenza Control and Prevention; build laboratory and surveillance capacity for detecting and reporting on priority animal and zoonotic diseases; expand animal disease surveillance into the commercial poultry and livestock industry.*
- *Strengthen the EMPRES and GLEWS platforms, ensure an effective and sustainable Crisis Management Centre (CMC) that quickly responds to transboundary animal disease outbreaks.*

### **F. Objective 6 and Cross-Cutting Issues**

Ensure the sustainability of the full range of activities under this objective, including the allocation of necessary financial and human resources. These are essential to maintaining FAO's global role in the production of statistical and other critical data analysis; supporting FAO Technical Committees and other technical bodies and meetings; and ensuring continued technical excellence at all levels of FAO.

Fully incorporate gender in all FAO's programming activities, both at HQ and in field operations. This includes gender-based analysis to understand gender-related opportunities, as well as strengthening the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to help identify ways to improve programmes.