



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ARC/18/REP

REPORT

**Khartoum
The Sudan
19-23 February
2018**

Thirtieth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa

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FAO Member Nations in the Africa Region

Algeria	Eritrea	Namibia
Angola	Ethiopia	Niger
Benin	Gabon	Nigeria
Botswana	Gambia	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Burundi	Guinea	Senegal
Cabo Verde	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Lesotho	Somalia
Chad	Liberia	South Africa
Comoros	Libya	South Sudan
Congo	Madagascar	Sudan
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Swaziland
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali	Togo
Djibouti	Mauritania	Tunisia
Egypt	Mauritius	Uganda
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	United Republic of Tanzania
	Mozambique	Zambia
		Zimbabwe

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Africa

First	Lagos, Nigeria, 3 – 12 November 1960
Second	Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 10 November 1962
Third	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3 – 15 September 1964
Fourth	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9 – 19 November 1966
Fifth	Kampala, Uganda, 18 – 29 November 1968
Sixth	Algiers, Algeria, 17 September – 3 October 1970
Seventh	Libreville, Gabon, 14 – 30 September 1972
Eighth	Rose Hill, Mauritius, 1 – 17 August 1974
Ninth	Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 – 12 November 1976
Tenth	Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 18 – 28 September 1978
Eleventh	Lomé, Togo, 16 – 27 June 1980
Twelfth	Algiers, Algeria, 22 September – 2 October 1982
Thirteenth	Harare, Zimbabwe, 16 – 25 July 1984
Fourteenth	Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 2 – 11 September 1986
Fifteenth	Moka, Mauritius, 26 April – 4 May 1988
Sixteenth	Marrakech, Morocco, 11 – 15 June 1990
Seventeenth	Accra, Ghana, 20 – 24 July 1992
Eighteenth	Gaborone, Botswana, 24 – 28 October 1994
Nineteenth	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 16 – 20 April 1996
Twentieth	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16 – 20 February 1998

Twenty-first	Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21 – 25 February 2000
Twenty-second	Cairo, Egypt, 4-8 February 2002
Twenty-third	Johannesburg, South Africa, 1- 5 March 2004
Twenty-fourth	Bamako, Mali, 30 January – 3 February 2006
Twenty-fifth	Nairobi, Kenya, 16 – 20 June 2008
Twenty-sixth	Luanda, Angola, 3 – 7 May 2010
Twenty-seventh	Brazzaville, Congo, 23 – 27 April 2012
Twenty-eighth	Tunis, Tunisia, 24 – 28 March 2014
Twenty-ninth	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 4– 8 April 2016
Thirtieth	Khartoum, the Sudan, 19 – 23 February 2018

SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- *Priorities for FAO Activities in Africa* (Paragraph 36 iii and vi)
- *Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network* (Paragraph 38 i, ii, iv and viii)
- *Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Africa* (Paragraph 39)
- *List of Proposed Topics for the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa* (Paragraphs 40-41)

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

- *State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues* (Paragraph 22 i., iii, iv, v and vii)
- *Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods* (Paragraph 24 iii and iv)
- *Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa* (Paragraphs 27 and 28)
- *Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry* (Paragraphs 30 ii, iii and v and 31)
- *Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO's Interregional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS* (Paragraph 32 iii, iv and vi)

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Conference

1. The 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Khartoum, the Sudan, from 19 to 23 February 2018. The Regional Conference was organized in two parts: a Senior Officers' Meeting from 19 to 21 February and a Ministerial-level Meeting from 22 to 23 February.
2. The Regional Conference was attended by 358 delegates from 47 Members of which 48 Ministers and Deputy-Ministers/Undersecretaries and 17 Ambassadors as well as 3 Observer Nations, 3 other Observers, 7 UN Organizations, 3 Civil Society Organizations and Non-governmental Organizations, and 12 Inter-governmental Organizations.

Inaugural Ceremonies

3. The Senior Officers' Meeting was opened with addresses by His Excellency Bushara Jumaa Aru, Federal Minister for Animal Resources, Republic of the Sudan; His Excellency Abdelatif Ahmed Mohamed Al Ijaimi, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of the Sudan; and Mr Bukar Tijani, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the FAO Regional Office for Africa.
4. His Excellency Bushara Jumaa Aru welcomed the participants and officially opened the meeting. Mr Bukar Tijani welcomed participants and thanked the Republic of the Sudan for the support in organizing and hosting the meeting. He acknowledged the support of the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa, the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and the Chairperson of the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives at FAO.
5. Mr Bukar Tijani highlighted the importance of the Conference theme, "*Sustainable development of agriculture and food systems in Africa: improving the means of production and the creation of decent and attractive employment for youth*", particularly in the context of the African Union 2063 Agenda, the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
6. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting was held on 22 February and was opened by His Excellency Bekri Hassan Salih, First Vice-President and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan. The Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, delivered a welcome address.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur

7. His Excellency Abdelatif Ahmed Mohamed Al Ijaimi, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of the Sudan, was endorsed by the delegates to chair the Session. The Chairperson thanked the delegates for electing the Sudan and FAO for the excellent preparations in organizing the meeting. He requested Mr. Bader El Din ElShiekh M. El Hassan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of the Republic of the Sudan, to chair the Senior Officers' Meeting.
8. The Conference elected the Republic of Zimbabwe as first Vice-Chair and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire as second Vice-Chair. The Conference appointed the Arab Republic of Egypt as Rapporteur and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea as Co-Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

9. The Conference adopted the Agenda, which is provided in Appendix A. Documents submitted to the Conference are listed in Appendix B.

Statement of the UN Secretary-General

10. The statement of the UN Secretary-General was pronounced by Ms Marta Ruedas, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Sudan. She thanked the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and commended FAO for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into its Strategic Programme Framework. She emphasized the urgent need to increase investments in agriculture to capitalize on the potential offered by sustainable food and agriculture systems for ending extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and achieving sustainable development in Africa. She also highlighted the ongoing United Nations' reforms to enhance effectiveness, and the new era of the UN's partnership with the African Union (AU) to implement and align the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Statement by the FAO Director-General

11. Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, welcomed the participating Ministers and dignitaries to the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa. The Director-General highlighted the increase in hunger between 2015 and 2016 following decades of progress in the region, and cited the main drivers such as rising conflicts, adverse climatic conditions and a difficult global economic environment. He emphasized the need to establish the link between hunger and malnutrition, rural poverty, conflicts and distress migration in order to effectively address their root causes, and to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach that aligns actions for immediate humanitarian assistance, long-term development and sustainable peace.

12. The Director-General indicated that FAO had created an excellent opportunity for adopting a holistic approach in programming, operationalizing and tracking progress, having aligned its Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He called for a more coherent and integrated approach through partnerships and better coordination among stakeholders that would lead to synergies and effectiveness in the delivery of results targeted under the Malabo commitments and the SDGs. The Director-General reiterated FAO's commitment to continue supporting the region to deliver the ambition for inclusive growth and shared prosperity for all, with the role and contribution of smallholder farmers at the heart of the Organization's interventions.

Statement by the Head of Government, Republic of the Sudan

13. His Excellency Bekri Hassan Salih, First Vice-President and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Sudan, welcomed the participants. He highlighted the existing potential on the African continent for transforming agriculture and food systems, and indicated that current efforts represent an important premise for a brighter future. He illustrated several cases of the Sudan's determination to achieve agricultural transformation, food security and nutrition.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

14. The statement was made available to delegates and delivered by the Secretary of the Regional Conference, as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Khalid Mehboob, was unable to attend the Conference.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

15. His Excellency Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC-29), reminded the Conference of the recommendations of the 29th Session, and briefed delegates on activities undertaken by the FAO Regional Office for Africa as a follow-up to the implementation of these recommendations related to three bold initiatives: (i) Africa's commitment to eradicate hunger by 2025; (ii) Sustainable intensification of production and development of value chains; and (iii) Strengthening resilience in the drylands. As Chair of ARC-29, he reported on his awareness-raising activities on the need to prioritize agriculture to meet the challenges of hunger, migration, terrorism, poverty and youth

unemployment on the continent. He also contributed to strengthening dialogue in the agricultural sector between Africa and the rest of the world.

Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

16. The Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), His Excellency Mario Arvelo Caamaño, reported on the progress made by the CFS over the past two years and its relevance to the Africa region. He briefed the Conference on some of the ongoing key CFS activities, and urged all stakeholders to engage actively in ongoing CFS multi-stakeholder consultative processes, provide adequate human and financial resources and implement CFS policy recommendations and guidelines at regional and country levels.

Statement of the African Union Commissioner

17. Her Excellency Josefa Leonel Sacko, Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union, addressed the Conference on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat. She congratulated the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for hosting this event and thanked the Sudan for its warm hospitality.

18. Her Excellency Josefa Leonel Sacko called the attention of Members to the workload that still remained ahead of ending hunger by 2025, building on the baseline established in the inaugural biennial review report. She concluded by urging countries to seize the opportunity to draw lessons from the past, and to continue strengthening coordination and partnerships.

Statements by the Subregional Group Representatives on Country and Regional Needs

19. Following the Inaugural Ceremony of the Ministerial Meeting, Representatives of each subregion presented a summary statement of their subregional consultations, identifying their future needs and priorities.

Statement by the Representative of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the Outcomes of the CSO Consultation

20. On the margin of the Regional Conference, the Civil Society Organizations held their consultations on 22-23 January 2018. The statement in Appendix C reflects the outcomes of the consultations.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

A. State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues

21. The Regional Conference considered the document on “*State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues*” (ARC/18/2). It highlighted the trends in the prevalence of food insecurity and the triple burden of undernourishment, and discussed the underlying drivers including adverse climatic conditions, conflict and a difficult global economic environment.

22. The Regional Conference:

- i. Expressed concern at the deteriorating trends in undernourishment and malnutrition in all its forms in Africa;
- ii. Noted the challenges posed by rapid population growth, urbanization, migration, and changes in dietary patterns, and emphasized the importance of a comprehensive food systems approach;

- iii. Reiterated the importance of increasing agricultural productivity, including through the application of innovations, technologies, improved inputs and mechanization, while addressing issues of conflict and security, peace building and climate change;
- iv. Underscored the need to increase aggregate investment in agriculture and other public goods for sustainable production growth and diversification in agriculture;
- v. Highlighted the importance of facilitating and strengthening private sector participation in transforming the food system to better reach development and rural transformation objectives, including creating opportunities for smallholders to benefit from emerging value chains, generating employment opportunities for youth and ensuring the quality of people's diets;
- vi. Welcomed that FAO's Strategic Programmes facilitated a comprehensive approach to addressing issues of food security, nutrition and sustainability;
- vii. Recommended that FAO continue to provide its knowledge and expertise to help Members effectively address the above trends and emerging issues in agriculture and food systems, particularly in the areas of:
 - a. developing comprehensive, multisectoral, multidisciplinary and regional approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes based on comparative advantage and for an inclusive agricultural growth;
 - b. addressing the impact of increasing urbanization and rising incomes on food consumption patterns and diets, including through nutrition education, capacity building and awareness raising;
 - c. ensuring effective education, advocacy and exchange of knowledge to improve the quality of diets and prevent malnutrition in all its forms.

B. Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods

23. The Regional Conference considered "*Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods*" (ARC/18/3). It discussed the negative impact of climate change on food security, nutrition and livelihoods, and considered innovative approaches for climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) for the Africa region.

24. The Regional Conference:

- i. Highlighted that climate change is a key driver of change in African agricultural and food systems;
- ii. Noted the high vulnerability of Africa to climate change and the threat it poses to achieving food security, nutrition, improving livelihoods and to national economies;
- iii. Underscored the lack of adequate resources and capacities for the implementation of appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures as well as DRR measures and resilience-building in rural livelihoods.
- iv. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
 - a. Continue supporting its Members in making food and agricultural systems and rural livelihoods more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including through its Strategy on Climate Change and in keeping with the directions of the 2018-2019 biennial focus on climate change;
 - b. Reinforce its work with African countries on their priority actions towards the achievement of the SDGs, the refinement and implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including resource mobilization, and the preparation of implementation plans to the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 in Africa;

- c. Facilitate intersectoral coordination and dialogue among relevant ministries and stakeholders to address the vulnerability of agriculture and rural livelihoods to climate change.

C. Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa

25. The Regional Conference considered “*Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture in Rural Sectors in Africa*” (ARC/18/4) and discussed key interventions which are required to promote youth employment and engagement in agrifood systems, including: a) improving the enabling business environment; b) providing young women and men with the appropriate skills and education; c) increasing the active participation of youth in policy processes; and d) enhancing rural-urban linkages.

26. The Regional Conference underlined the huge potential of the agrifood sector for offering attractive employment opportunities for Africa’s burgeoning youth.

27. The Regional Conference reiterated the importance of adopting an inclusive approach to addressing youth employment issues in Africa. It encouraged countries to:

- i. Make agriculture competitive, profitable, financially and socially (social protection, safety net and pension systems) secure and attractive to youth and, at the same time, consider the special needs of women;
- ii. Facilitate access to productive resources (land, finances, knowledge, information, etc.) and create markets for young women and men entrepreneurs through school-feeding programmes and other institutional markets;
- iii. Ensure education and training curricula provide youth with the right skills and education for the labour market and for decent employment opportunities within agrifood value chains;
- iv. Promote viable and decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young women and men in farm and non-farm rural activities as a means of addressing the root causes of distress rural outmigration, strengthening rural-urban linkages and reducing the incidence of migration;
- v. Increase responsible and youth-inclusive investments to modernize the agricultural sector through innovations and the promotion of improved agricultural technologies (hard and soft), information systems and Information Communication Technologies (ICT) applications; and involving youth in policy formulation, policy dialogues and decision-making processes which concern them;
- vi. Provide an enabling business environment for facilitating the private sector to become the engine of job creation and strengthening apex youth associations and agribusiness bodies.

28. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO assist Members in:

- i. Making agriculture and the agrifood sector competitive and attractive to the youth;
- ii. Adopting a regional approach towards addressing youth employment in agriculture and agrifood sectors (strategies, platforms, etc.) and value chains through investment, trade facilitation, and better coordination and participation in regional policy dialogues;
- iii. Formulating or adapting national youth-sensitive policies/programmes.

D. Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

29. The Regional Conference considered the document on “*Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*” (ARC/18/5) and discussed its importance for achieving food security and nutrition.

30. The Regional Conference:

- i. Acknowledged the important role FAO plays acting as a Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange of information and data among stakeholders on concrete and coordinated steps to integrate biodiversity across the agriculture sectors and improve the design and coordination of relevant policies from local to international levels;
- ii. Underscored the critical role and contribution biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture sectors makes toward achieving Zero Hunger (SDG 2) to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14), and to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse soil degradation, and halt biodiversity loss (SDG 15);
- iii. Invited countries to enhance collaboration and coordination towards stronger and more effective biodiversity mainstreaming across agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including in the context of climate change;
- iv. Highlighted concerns related to climate change and natural resource management;
- v. Encouraged countries to consider biodiversity as a cross-subsector subject matter when developing policies and planning interventions in the agriculture sector, and when developing climate change mitigation measures.

31. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i. Encourage the promotion of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform for implementing biodiversity initiatives;
- ii. Support compilation and scaling up of good practices on biodiversity management in a participatory manner;
- iii. Promote local knowledge, markets and value chain development for seeds/planting materials of minor crops/species;
- iv. Support countries in managing the nexus between the requisite increase in productivity/production to respond to food security needs while ensuring biodiversity conservation.

E. Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO's Interregional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS (ARC/18/10)

32. The Regional Conference:

- i. Welcomed the engagement of an FAO-dedicated programme in addressing the needs of SIDS and noted the progress in the implementation of activities under the Interregional Initiative on SIDS;
- ii. Recognized the leadership of FAO in Madagascar in championing the work on SIDS;
- iii. Raised concerns related to climate change, continued soil degradation and severe water scarcity;
- iv. Highlighted the constraints and high costs SIDS countries incur as a result of their insularity and territorial discontinuity;
- v. Noted that landlocked food-deficit countries could benefit from the experience of the SIDS in view of the challenges and issues affecting the two categories of countries; and
- vi. Recommended that consideration be given to a model for landlocked food-deficit countries inspired by the SIDS programme while distinguishing the differentiated needs of both categories of countries.

F. Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow-up actions at regional and country levels (ARC/18/6)

33. The Regional Conference reviewed the recent developments and deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and considered appropriate follow-up actions in the Africa region.
34. The Regional Conference:
- i. Noted the outcomes of the CFS and considered the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

A. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region

35. The Regional Conference considered the “*Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region*” (ARC/18/7) covering achievements in 2016-17 and proposals for 2018-19 and beyond.

36. The Regional Conference:

- i. Recognized the importance of the Strategic Framework in providing direction for FAO’s technical work to address priorities in the region and ensuring effective delivery of results at country level;
- ii. Appreciated the work completed through the Strategic Programmes and the results achieved by FAO in 2016-17 under the Regional Initiatives and other main areas of work in responding to the main priorities identified in the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa;
- iii. Underscored the relevance of the three Regional Initiatives and supported their continuation in the 2018-19 biennium to help focus and guide FAO actions on priorities of the region, namely: Africa’s commitment to end hunger by 2025, sustainable production intensification and value chain development in Africa, and building resilience in Africa’s drylands;
- iv. Appreciated the alignment of FAO’s Strategic Objectives and the Regional Initiatives for Africa with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Malabo Declaration, and noted the relevance of other frameworks including the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction;
- v. Reiterated the complex and multifaceted development challenges faced by Members, in particular given the impact of climate change, and appreciated the role of the Strategic Programmes in integrating the Organization’s technical work at regional and country levels, and the dissemination, where appropriate, of relevant normative tools such as voluntary guidelines developed on specific issue areas;
- vi. Recommended that FAO:
 - a. continue to build on the results and impacts of its programmes, including in food security and nutrition, improved productivity and value chain development, and resilience building for effective management of risks; and,
 - b. enhance its support to countries in the important areas of agribusiness development, youth employment, effective water and soil management, and control of plant and animal pests and diseases.

B. Decentralized Offices Network

37. The Regional Conference considered the “*Decentralized Offices Network*” (ARC/18/8), reporting on actions taken in 2016-17 and those planned for 2018-19. The Regional Conference expressed its satisfaction

with the implementation of the decisions of the 29th ARC and the progress made in the decentralization of the FAO country office network.

38. The Regional Conference:

- i. Supported the principles and general criteria for reviewing FAO's decentralized network coverage through the adoption of flexible arrangements as agreed by the 29th ARC and the 154th Session of the FAO Council;
- ii. Recognized the need to review FAO's work to provide effective support to Members according to needs, in a manner that is commensurate with, *inter alia*, their income status and in consultation with governments of concerned countries;
- iii. Noted the review of country office staffing models to increase adequate representation with adjustment to the emerging needs of countries and welcomed further review in light of criteria adopted by other UN agencies;
- iv. Highlighted the importance of adequate representation enabling the presence, high-level engagement and resource mobilization capacity to sustain and develop FAO's field programme and requested further consideration of the matter;
- v. Acknowledged the efforts made to strengthen national and international partnerships with key stakeholders for more effective field support;
- vi. Appreciated the strong focus and work of the Organization at country level through achievements highlighted in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of many FAO Representations in the region;
- vii. Welcomed the 40th anniversary initiative as an opportunity to renew the Organization's commitment to its long-term presence in the field;
- viii. Underlined the continuing need to prioritize partnerships and increase resource mobilization at the decentralized level, with emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and still keeping close collaboration with Rome-based and other UN agencies.

IV. Other Matters

A. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Africa (ARC/18/9)

39. The Regional Conference took note of the "*Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPow) 2016-19 for the FAO Regional Conference for Africa*" (ARC/18/9) presented to the Regional Conference for information.

B. Concluding Items

List of Proposed Topics for the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

40. The Regional Conference considered topics suggested on the basis of deliberations which resulted from the subregional consultations. The topics are consolidated into the following four proposed potential themes:

- i. SDGs in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Africa - Leveraging investments, policies and partnerships for zero hunger and livelihoods, growth, employment, resilience and peace-building;
- ii. SDGs in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Africa - Leveraging investments, policies and partnerships;

- iii. Agricultural and Rural Transformation in Africa - Promoting inclusive agribusiness and regional integration for rural development, food and nutrition security, employment, intra- and extra-community trade of agrosylvo-pastoral and fishery products;
- iv. Agricultural and Rural Transformation in Africa - Promoting inclusive agribusiness and regional integration.

41. The Regional Conference requested the Africa Group of Permanent Representatives, the Secretariat of the Regional Conference and the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa to examine the proposals in order to make a final decision on the theme for the 31st Session of the Regional Conference.

Date and Place of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

42. The Regional Conference agreed to hold the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa in the Republic of Zimbabwe in 2020. Zimbabwe expressed its appreciation for this proposal and agreed to host the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa in 2020. The exact date will be agreed jointly by the selected host country and the Secretariat of the Regional Conference.

C. Any Other Matters

Ministerial Round Table

43. A Ministerial Round Table was held on Friday, 23 February 2018, which focused on the following themes: (i) The SDG 2030 Agenda: Delivering Sustainable Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa; (ii) Zero Hunger; and (iii) the 40th Anniversary of FAO Country Representations.

Khartoum Ministerial Declaration

44. Ministers endorsed the Khartoum Ministerial Declaration at the end of the Conference (Appendix D).

Adoption of the Report

45. The Conference unanimously adopted the Report as presented by the Rapporteur.

Closure of the Conference

46. In his closing statement, the Director-General of FAO congratulated the participants for the high level of participation and constructive debates, thanking them for reaffirming their commitment to meeting Africa's 2025 Zero Hunger Challenge.

47. On behalf of the President of the Republic of the Sudan and the people of the Republic of the Sudan, His Excellency Faisal Hassan Ibrahim, Assistant to the President of the Republic of the Sudan, thanked FAO for its efforts to end hunger and poverty, to promote resilient systems and address issues of youth employment and migration. He reiterated the solidarity of the Republic of the Sudan to the undertaking and expressed appreciation to the Conference delegates for the trust placed in the Republic of the Sudan.

V. APPENDICES

Appendix A. Agenda

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
2. Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
3. Statement by the Director-General
4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
7. Statements on Prioritization of Needs of Countries and Subregions by the Subregional Group Representatives
8. Outcomes of the Consultation of the Civil Society Organizations

II. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY AND REGULATORY MATTERS

9. State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues
10. Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods
11. Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Rural Sectors in Africa
12. Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
13. Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow-up actions at regional and country level
14. Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO's Interregional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS

III. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

15. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region
16. Decentralized Offices Network

IV. OTHER MATTERS

17. Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Africa
18. Proposed List of Topics to be considered for the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
19. Date and Place of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
20. Any Other Matters

Review and endorsement of the Report of the Regional Conference
Ministerial Round Table

Appendix B. List of documents (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/arc30/documents/en/>)

SESSION DOCUMENTS

Number	Title
ARC/18/1/Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ARC/18/2	State of Food and Agriculture in Africa: Future Prospects and Emerging Issues
ARC/18/3	Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO: Building resilience to address extreme vulnerability of Africa's agriculture and rural livelihoods
ARC/18/4	Leveraging Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture in Rural Sectors in Africa
ARC/18/5	Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
ARC/18/6	Outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow-up actions at regional and country level
ARC/18/7	Results and Priorities for FAO in the Africa Region
ARC/18/7 Web Annex 1	Overview of FAO's Strategic Objective Programmes
ARC/18/7 Web Annex 2	Contribution of Results in the Africa Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in the 2016-17 Biennium
ARC/18/7 Web Annex 3	Planned Contribution of Results in the Africa Region to FAO Strategic Objective Output Targets in the 2018-19 biennium
ARC/18/8	Decentralized Offices Network
ARC/18/9	Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for the Regional Conference for Africa
ARC/18/10	Progress made on the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States and on FAO's Interregional Initiative on SIDS: Case of Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

Number	Title
ARC/18/INF/1	Information Note
ARC/18/INF/2/Rev.1	Provisional Timetable
ARC/18/INF/3/Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
ARC/18/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
ARC/18/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
ARC/18/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
ARC/18/INF/7	Summary Report of Recommendations of FAO Regional Bodies
ARC/18/INF/8	Reporting on the Recommendations of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa
ARC/18/INF/9	International Year of Pulses (2016)
ARC/18/INF/10	Outcomes of the FAO Regional Meeting on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa
ARC/18/INF/11	Outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition
ARC/18/INF/12/Rev.1	Management of the Fall Armyworm in Africa
ARC/18/INF/13	Note on Side Events and Subregional Consultations
ARC/18/INF/14	Ministerial Round Table: <i>“The SDG 2030 Agenda: Delivering Sustainable Agriculture Growth and Rural Transformation in Africa”</i>
ARC/18/INF/15	Zero Hunger
ARC/18/INF/16	40th Anniversary of FAO Country Representations

Appendix C. Declaration by Civil Society Organizations

Honourable Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

We, the 36 representatives of small and medium-scale farmers, rural women and youth, fisherfolk, agricultural workers, livestock keepers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, landless peoples, consumers, and NGOs representing national, regional and international CSOs coming from 23 countries met in Khartoum, the Sudan, on 22 and 23 January 2018 for the CSO consultation in line with this 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

We recognize the efforts of FAO to support this opportunity for civil society to collectively debate on our relationship, challenges and our demands to FAO and its Members, as well as the opportunity to discuss the pertinent issues on the Regional Conference Agenda.

Although we regret the absence of a clear focus on rural women and girls within the Agenda of this Regional Conference for Africa, we welcome FAO's ongoing initiatives to promote sustainable production systems, food systems that enhance rural economies and society as a whole, the professional insertion of youth in the agricultural sectors, the protection and promotion of biodiversity and increasing climate resilience.

Notwithstanding the will and efforts of FAO, the efficient and sustainable implementation of the recommendations from the previous consultation remains for us an important concern. Moreover, many recommendations made so far have still not been taken into consideration at national, subregional and regional levels

We appreciate the common efforts of CSOs, UN organizations and governments to declare the Decade of Family Farming which was adopted in November 2017 by the UN General Assembly.

However, we note the persistence or emergence of some challenges that threatens the hopes engaged by ongoing initiatives:

- Our governments still pursue contradictory actions actively sponsoring the grabbing and destruction of our lands, soils, forests, water sources, genetic biodiversity and other resources, as well as the livelihood of our constituencies; causing, with complicity, widespread waves of forced evictions; allowing for an accelerated corporate capture of our democratic processes; and by eroding the transparency and accountability of our governmental programmes and institutions.
- Hunger and malnutrition continue to be endemic in Africa, taking into consideration that although governments have largely recognized the right to food and nutrition, most of them have not taken serious and consistent actions to internalize these rights within their national constitutions and legislations. At the same time, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights remains ignored.
- The multiplication and intensification of socio-political conflicts, armed and unarmed, including terrorism, which are severely affecting access to production basins, mobility and intraregional trade, and by consequence obstructing and even spoiling food and nutritional security strategies, efforts and actions.

- Lack of political will and failure in implementation of policies aimed at maximizing the potential and inclusion of youth entering the labour market at a rate of 20 million yearly, compounding on the already unfavourable living conditions of African youth, leading to increasingly complex and convoluted reasons for migration and rural exodus.
- The lack of consideration in existing public policies relating to some of the main strategic production sectors which are the source of livelihood and identity of a significant portion of African societies such as fisheries, pastoralism and forestry. This considerably hinders living conditions, undermines current poverty reduction strategies and hampers efforts to diversify income sources at local level.
- The persistence and intensification of the persecution and criminalization of defenders of human rights across the Continent, as well as the absence of strong national legislation protecting their rights.

As such, and following our discussions during the two days of the Civil Society consultation, **we strongly urge for the following from our governments:**

1. Put an end to resource grabbing affecting farming, fisheries, forests and pastoralist communities, and move towards an equitable management of these resources (natural, material, financial) by strengthening community rights, benefit-sharing policies, and enacting strong and binding legislations. In particular we call for the inclusion of the right to food and nutrition into the constitution and other legislations, and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and that our governments enact legal frameworks and regulations to guarantee the right to free, prior and informed consent.
2. Develop and/or adopt policies to establish and protect pastoral systems, and support community self-governing strategies over natural and pastoral resources, to ensure harmonious co-existence conditions between farmers and pastoralists.
3. Prove their commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the interests of local communities by developing and/or putting in place appropriate legislative frameworks and regulations based on the relevant and existing legal instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security of CFS, UN declaration on the rights of peasants, UN binding treaty on transnational corporations, etc.
4. Systematize the formalization of agricultural sectors through implementing conventions and policies promoting and protecting food systems through a new food governance system. This will value procurement and consumption of local products, and the mobilization of appropriate budgets for financing agriculture to bring responsive and responsible investment to rural and agriculture infrastructure.
5. Regulate the activities of transnational corporations (TNCs), holding them accountable for their complicity and/or complacency with abuses and violations of human rights, with special attention to ensuring that women rights' impact assessments are made compulsory for any support of large-scale agricultural projects, in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and General Recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of Rural Women.
6. Forge stronger and more sustained mechanisms to ensure youth participation and inclusion in policies formulation processes at the various levels, and harmonize policies directly or indirectly pertaining to youth issues. This must be accompanied by the allocation of resources for the financing of agriculture,

value addition and services, and rural development by increasing responsible investment and improving infrastructure.

7. Develop legislation that ensures the protection and well-being of human rights defenders. Where a legal framework already exists, governments must commit to enforcing these frameworks and avoid any action that might lead to the infringement of the rights of defenders of human rights, and criminalization of their legitimate actions.
8. Take assertive steps towards long-lasting peace and security of our societies, and ensure effective functioning of legal provisions and mechanisms for holding war-mongering individuals accountable. Additionally, governments must put in place effective strategies to assist and support conflict-affected displaced communities, as well as those returning to their territories, with an aim to accelerate the recovery of their livelihoods and well-being.
9. We make a special motion to the governments to create and allow the conditions for small-scale food producers to organize themselves freely and autonomously, as well as providing them with the necessary conditions for legal registration of their organizations to fulfil their union and development missions.

Furthermore, **we strongly call for the following from the FAO:**

10. Develop resilient and sustainable intensification policies' instruments, guidelines to combat land and forestry degradation, such as using the AU framework on pastoralism to influence governments towards effective actions and CSO capacity building to promote exchange of experience practice and strategies.
11. Develop policies and strategies to support the agroecological transition within food systems, and ensure adaptation and mitigation of climate change by strengthening the capacity of CSO networks and public institutions for better analysis and control of climate change issues and the implementation of appropriate initiatives.
12. More than ever, implement, collaboratively with representatives of our CSOs, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms which are accessible, relevant and usable by FAO and CSOs, and which results should be presented during the next consultation.

We call for FAO and our governments to:

13. Use/adopt internal policies and regulations to ensure that its resources are not used to the detriment of the well-being of its targeted communities, and society as a whole, and use and/or put in place internal mechanisms to support lasting peace and security in the world, and assist those who are displaced by war, armed conflicts, and terrorism, or to displaced-peoples returning to their territories.

Finally, we commit ourselves to:

14. Collaborate with our governments to harmonize contradictions in policy frameworks in favour of the interests of the people and of nature and integrate adaptation and mitigation in approaches to addressing climate change.
15. Be proactive and decisive in getting involved in articulation spaces at the different levels aimed at reducing the influence of corporate power into what should be sovereign democratic processes, and end the impunity of TNCs and governments over human rights abuses and violations.

16. Be vocal against violence of war, armed conflict and terrorism, in whichever form it may take and develop and support concrete solidarity actions to those affected by war, armed conflict and terrorism, and permanently strive towards lasting peace and stability in society.
17. Create and facilitate spaces for youth for dialogue, exchange, propagation and replication of successful youth experiences. Simultaneously, we shall strengthen the capacities of youth through mentoring, training and exchanges to enhance their confidence to pursue opportunities offered by agriculture and value-addition and services sectors, as well as accessing public and other funding.
18. Support people-centered initiatives aimed at monitoring public and private sector actions, and their impacts on society and the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen, we once again recognize the efforts and initiatives of all those involved, opening the doors of dialogue and collective policy analysis and action, particularly referring to the planning of the next biennial of FAO's cooperation with our African States.

On behalf of the organizations represented in the 2018 Regional Consultation on the FAO Regional Conference, we trust and hope that our sincere analysis, demands and proposals are well received by you and your teams, and we look forward to more concrete collaborations with you in the coming period.

Khartoum, 23 February 2018

Appendix D. Ministerial Declaration

We, Ministers for Agriculture, Heads of Delegation, and Participants meeting in Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Africa,

Taking stock of progress and lessons learned in promoting sustainable development of agriculture and food systems in Africa in light of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Malabo Declaration on Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in African by 2025, and the Framework of the *Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*,

Commending the support and contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the attainment of our development priorities,

Emphasizing that African people deserve a high standard of living, quality of life, sound health and well-being, thereby envisioning an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition, while *recognizing* the decisive role that national leadership can play in advancing food security and nutrition agendas for the achievement of concrete results,

Conscious that sustainable food and agriculture systems in Africa have direct dividends in curbing the current negative influences on public health, decent youth employment, education, economic and social development,

Convinced that redoubling efforts and concerted action by all stakeholders are essential to reverse the current worsening trends and enable meeting Africa's commitment to the Zero Hunger goal,

Welcoming the opportunity of sharing experiences on substantive issue areas, including on sustainable agriculture, and zero hunger and resilience,

Recognizing the importance of the comprehensive food systems approach to address the triple burden of malnutrition and the importance of addressing the issues of conflict and security, peace building and climate change as drivers of food insecurity in Africa,

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive, multisectoral, multidisciplinary and regional approaches in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes based on comparative advantage and for an inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth,

Cognizant of the potential of promoting private sector development through better incentive systems for investment in sustainable food and agriculture value-chains,

Encouraged by the positive results achieved by the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), which helped to boost small farmers' incomes and youth employment through knowledge sharing,

Considering biodiversity as a cross-cutting subject matter when developing policies and planning interventions in the agriculture sector, and when developing climate change mitigation measures,

Noting the progress in the implementation of activities under the Interregional Initiative on Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

Cognizant of the challenges faced by landlocked food-deficit countries,

Noted the inclusive nature of the Agenda 2030,

Noted also the consistencies and the interlinkages between the Agenda 2030 and the Malabo Declaration with respect to matters dealing with poverty reduction, agricultural development and food and nutrition security,

Noted further the declaration by Ministers for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which was adopted during the Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on 14 December 2017,

Reiterated our commitment to achieve Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 and continue to pursue policies and programmes that will redress the deteriorating trends in undernourishment and malnutrition in all its forms in Africa;

Expressed our commitment to:

- (i) put in place conducive policies and strategies, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources, and channelling institutional capacities and capabilities for accelerated implementation of sustainable food and agriculture systems in an integrated and coordinated manner;
- (ii) increase agricultural productivity, including through the application of innovations, technologies, information systems, ICT, and improved inputs, and mechanization;
- (iii) adopt policies and programmes to increase responsible and youth-inclusive investments to modernize the agricultural sector, and involving youths in policy formulation and dialogues and decision making processes concerning them;
- (iv) promote viable and decent employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young women and men in farm and non-farm rural activities as a means of addressing the root causes of distress rural outmigration, strengthening rural-urban linkages and reducing the incidence of migration;
- (v) promote an enabling business environment to further engage the private sector as an engine of job creation and strengthening apex youth associations and agribusiness bodies;
- (vi) enhance our collaboration and coordination towards a stronger and more effective mainstreaming of biodiversity across agriculture, forestry and fisheries, including in the context of climate change;

Called on African countries to step up their support and contribution to the capitalization of the ASTF, and *called also* for a wide participation in the Resource Mobilization Forum that will take place in the second semester of 2018;

Welcomed the engagement of an FAO dedicated programme in addressing the needs of SIDS;

Supported further action to address the needs of landlocked food-deficit countries;

Expressed deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for hosting the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

**Khartoum, the Republic of the Sudan,
23 February 2018**