

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 11.3 – Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)

Member Name	Comments
United States of America (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 10.10)	The United States of America appreciates the work of all Regional Conferences and strongly supports the Conference endorsement of all Regional Conference reports, including the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) Report, endorsing the conclusions of CL 170 on this matter.
The Russian Federation (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 17.17)	The Russian Federation fundamentally disagrees with the policy of European Union countries and a number of their supporters in Europe, who have chosen the path of confrontation and politicizing the work of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC). We underscore the fact that by refusing to negotiate on the text contained in the Report (paragraph 30 of the report on the work of the ERC) and insisting it be adopted “en bloc”, these countries have expressed a blatant disregard for the region’s collective interests and ruled out any possibility of further cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 and SDG 2. Three states, including Russia, opposed the decision, while nine others abstained from voting. We reiterate our country’s unchanged position on the counterproductivity of leveraging the ERC and FAO as a platform to address political issues outside the Organization’s mandate. The Russian Federation opposes the Conference’s endorsement of the decision contained in the report on the work of the ERC, as well as paragraph 40 (o) of the Report.
Switzerland (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 8.45)	Switzerland wishes to highlight three of the points that the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) brings to the attention of the Conference. These points have also all been highlighted as key takeaways and priorities in the European regional preparatory meeting for the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment. Firstly, using Agroecology as an inclusive and effective approach to transform food systems, as also recognized by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The growing membership of the Agroecology Coalition is a testimony to its potential and we encourage the continued work and collaboration of members, stakeholders and the FAO in this regard. Secondly, developing FAO’s normative work in the areas of True Cost as an important step in developing more equitable and sustainable food systems, taking into account both positive and negative economic, social, nutritional and environmental impacts. Thirdly, youth and the need to address the generational gap in agriculture. Food systems transformation is not possible without the full and active participation of youth. Once again, Switzerland emphasizes the centrality of working not just

	<p>for, but with youth as an indispensable agent of change. Alongside FAO's Rural Youth Action Plan, the new Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems should be actively used by FAO, as also requested during the 33rd Session of the ERC.</p>
<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.</p> <p>The EU and its 27 Member States would like to thank the Republic of Poland and FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for their excellent organization of the 33rd Regional Conference in May last year.</p> <p>We would also like to take this opportunity to commend FAO and its Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia for their work in the region over the last biennium, especially their efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and their response to the severe consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine for food security and agriculture, including global food prices. We encourage FAO to further enhance its work in this area, recalling that the European Regional Conference adopted a decision under the Item, <i>Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine</i>. We request that the actions contained in the Conference report continue to be duly executed.</p> <p>We call on FAO to continue implementing the assistance plans to restore Ukraine's food-producing potential and to continue developing plans to address the global food security implications of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including emergency response plans and medium- and long-term assistance plans, as well as building the resilience of food systems, especially for the countries in the region that are most affected.</p> <p>We reiterate the need to keep improving the transparency of world markets and coordination among Members, through initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System.</p> <p>We call on FAO to continue to support Members' efforts to transform food systems to make them sustainable and to achieve the SDGs. For this, it is essential to continue to fully implement the FAO Strategic Framework for 2022-31, addressing the four regional priorities and paying special attention to accelerators and cross-cutting themes, such as gender, youth and inclusion.</p> <p>We underline the need to continue integrating the true cost of food into the design of food policies, going beyond a purely economic approach and encompassing nutrition and health, as well as social and environmental values. Healthy diets based on diverse and sustainably produced food must be pursued to achieve improved nutritional outcomes, including for socio-economically vulnerable groups, women and young people.</p> <p>We call on FAO to continue to support Members in implementing the CFS's voluntary guidelines and policy recommendations, including the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches and on Food Losses and Waste.</p>

	With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States endorse the Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (10-13 May 2022).
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