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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

**Forty-third Session – Quarante-troisième session - 43.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 1-7 July 2023**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I OF THE  
CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 1-7 juillet 2023**

**PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I DE LA  
CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 1-7 de julio de 2023**

**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I DE  
LA CONFERENCIA**

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<p><b>Forty-third Session</b> <b>Quarante-troisième session</b> <b>43.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 1-7 July 2023</b> <b>Rome, 1-7 juillet 2023</b> <b>Rome, 1-7 de julio de 2023</b></p>
<p><b>FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I</b> <b>PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I</b> <b>PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b></p>
<p><b>3 July 2023</b></p>

The First Meeting was opened at 10:17 hours  
Mr Marcel Beukeboom,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 17  
sous la présidence de M Marcel Beukeboom,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunión a las 10.17  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Marcel Beukeboom,  
Presidente de la Comisión I

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## CHAIRPERSON

My name is Mr Marcel Beukeboom. I am the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Rome-based Agencies, and I am honoured to be elected as your Chairperson in this Commission I and I thank you all for placing your trust in me. I am now pleased to open our first meeting.

As you know, Commission I focuses on substantive and policy matters. Programmatic and budgetary matters should be raised under Commission II. So, if you have to be there, this is your moment. Otherwise, I hope you stay here with us for the coming days because we have quite a bit on our plate.

I also welcome and congratulate the Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, elected by the Conference through the first Report of the General Committee, His Excellency Ali Coulibaly, the Ambassador of Mali. Thank you. Looking forward to work with you as well. Together with the Vice-Chairperson, the Secretariat, sitting next to me here, we will do our utmost to ensure the efficiency and smooth running of the work here.

I would like to recall that all Items under our Commission I are being considered through a Written Correspondence Procedure. Under the Written Correspondence Procedure, Members submitted written inputs, which were compiled and published on a dedicated section of the website of the 43rd Session of the Conference.

Secretariat responses are also republished at the same location in all languages of the Organization. The advance written exchange between the Membership and the Secretariat would substitute the oral debate during our Session and enable the Commission to address solely the draft conclusions of relevant Agenda Items during its meetings.

The status of decisions and outcomes of Agenda Items addressed through a written correspondence procedure is identical to any other Agenda Item. Comments submitted by Members through the written correspondence will be included in the Verbatim Records. Please kindly note that the introductory presentations for Items, as well as Members' written comments and management responses, are all available on the dedicated web page of the 43rd Session of the Conference. In case you have further comments for the Item, I count on your support to keep your intervention short and within five minutes. When a timer on the screen shows that time is up, I shall request you to stop.

I will invite the Secretary to project my conclusions on the screen while I read them out. Following the good practice, my conclusions will be very concise. Upon consultations with the Regional Groups, the following have been nominated as Members of the Drafting Committee, Brazil, Canada, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Gabon, Indonesia, Sudan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and Spain. I do not have the name of the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee yet, but as soon as we have that we will mention that to you as well.

May I take it that the Commission agrees on the proposed Membership and not the Chairperson yet of the Drafting Committee? I see no objection from the floor. So, it is decided.

The meeting of the Drafting Committee is scheduled on Wednesday the 5 July at 14:00 hours in the Mexico room. That is D211. I therefore count on all of us to respect our timetable so that the Drafting Committee can meet as scheduled.

Finally, it is important that we start and finish each meeting on time. We will be able to start our Sessions only when the quorum has been reached. If we conclude our Items of the day earlier than scheduled, I propose that we immediately continue with the next Items in our timetable. And before we start our discussions, I invite the Secretary to introduce some housekeeping rules.

## SECRETARY

As the Chairperson mentioned, all Items of Commission I will be done through the Written Correspondence Procedure. If you have a further verbal comment, please send your comments, preferably in Word format, to [Conference-Statements@fao.org](mailto:Conference-Statements@fao.org), and copy [Conference-commissionI@fao.org](mailto:Conference-commissionI@fao.org), and [FAO-Interpretation@fao.org](mailto:FAO-Interpretation@fao.org). This will help to ensure accurate interpretation and timely delivery of Verbatim Records. The name of the country and a speaker should



be indicated at the top of the first page in one of the following languages, English, French and Spanish.

Regarding the Members of Drafting Committee, we are going to reach you and asking for your email address as well as the mobile phone numbers in case we have some changes of the schedule for Drafting Committee Members meeting. You are also more than welcome to reach us and provide your information through the email just projected on the screen. For any other assistance regarding Commission I or the Drafting Committee, please do not hesitate to also come to the podium and let us know your need.

Please kindly be reminded that FAO encourages a paper-free policy. For example, the Draft Reports, we will circulate them on Members Gateway. As per Rule XIII of General Rules of the Organization, the FAO Basic Texts, paragraph 5, the procedure in the Commission shall be governed by the provisions of Rule paragraph 12.

So, as far as applicable, one third of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the consideration of the Item on the Agenda of the Commission and for the decisions on questions of procedure with exception of motion for the closure of the debate on the Item under discussion. A majority of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for decisions on substantive questions and for decision on a motion for the closure of the debate on Item under discussion.

In order to ensure the smooth proceedings of Commission I meeting Sessions, we invite you to pay attention to the daily journal of the Conference and attend meeting on time. For virtual participant, which is not very strange for us, you are familiar with the standard procedures in the virtual Zoom.

If you wish to request the floor, please use raise your hand and please speak concisely, slowly and clearly. The interpretation service will remind you once we have a deteriorated or unexpected disconnection or blur in your intervention. This is for housekeeping rules. We stand by. We are at your disposal for any assistance you need.

- Item 11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**  
**Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:**  
**Tema 11. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

- Item 11.1 Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)*  
*Point 11.1 Rapport de la 32<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (Malabo [Guinée équatoriale], 11-14 avril 2022)*  
*Tema 11.1 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (Malabo [Guinea Ecuatorial], 11-14 de abril de 2022)*

## CHAIRPERSON

With that, we can now start with the first Item on our Agenda, Item 11, *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters Arising from Regional Conferences*.

The first Sub-Item is Sub-Item 11.1, *Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)*, contained in document C 2023/14.

Please note that the Report was adopted by the Regional Conference, and was reviewed by the 170th Session of the Council.

The introduction of the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa will be given by the Minister de la Ganadería José Juan Ndong Tomo Mekina, sit next to me here. The introduction has been published on the Conference webpage.

**Introduction to Item 11.1: Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022)**

*The Honourable Francisca Eneme Efua, Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa*

Chairperson of the FAO Conference, Director General of FAO, Distinguished members of the Conference, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the African Countries, I have the distinguished honor and privilege to present to you the outcomes of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Conference recorded the participation of 778 delegates from 54 Members, consisting of 62 ministers (including deputy ministers), 20 ambassadors, 28 private sector organizations, 31 civil society and/or nongovernmental organizations, 34 intergovernmental organizations, seven United Nations (UN) organizations and three observer nations. Allow me to submit to the Conference a summary of the main recommendations on regional and global policy and regulatory matters.

The Regional Conference discussed several key documents related to the prevention of future pandemics, COVID-19 impacts on agrifood systems, investing in ecosystem restoration, promoting trade and investment, ensuring inclusivity in agrifood systems and experience sharing sessions among Members on better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Regarding the prevention of future pandemics, the conference recognized the importance of multi-sector engagement and the incorporation of the One Health approach into policy documents. The role of the FAO and recommended actions included supporting the establishment of national One Health platforms, aligning policies at regional and national levels, and including One Health in programming and resource mobilization efforts.

In terms of COVID-19 impacts on agrifood systems, the conference acknowledged the negative effects on food security and nutrition, as well as on crop, livestock and fisheries production. FAO's role in response and recovery efforts was appreciated, and recommendations were made to address short-term needs, implement recovery programmes, collect data for risk understanding and promote digital transformation and resilience in food and agricultural systems. The conference also discussed the importance of investing in ecosystem restoration for sustainable agrifood systems transformation. FAO's role in providing technical support and promoting knowledge sharing was acknowledged. Members were urged to move away from unsustainable practices, seize the opportunities of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, invest in innovations and technologies and strengthen partnerships and institutions.

Regarding trade and investment, the conference emphasized the need to mainstream food security and nutrition in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) processes. Recommendations included derisking investment, promoting private sector participation, coordinating trade and investment policies, and implementing measures defined in the AfCFTA. The conference recommended FAO to enhance technical support, promote peer learning and assist in designing social protection and market-oriented programmes.

The conference also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in agrifood systems, recognizing inequality and power imbalances as constraints. In particular, gender equality, youth empowerment and social justice were emphasized. FAO was recommended to introduce gender-responsive technologies, use profiling and targeting tools, collect gender-sensitive data and promote tripartite agreement schemes. Members were encouraged to address root causes of rural poverty and inequalities, safeguard Indigenous Peoples' food systems, invest in capacity development and promote peer learning and inclusivity.

During the experience sharing sessions on better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, Members and stakeholders exchanged powerful stories and success stories that could shape and transform agrifood systems. The session provided an interactive platform to discuss best practices and strategies for achieving the vision of transforming agrifood systems and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

Overall, the Regional Conference addressed various aspects of preventing future pandemics, recovering from COVID-19 impacts, restoring ecosystems, promoting trade and investment and ensuring inclusivity in agrifood systems. The recommendations highlighted the importance of multi-sector engagement, policy alignment, innovation, partnerships and addressing inequalities for a more sustainable and resilient future.

With regard to the next Regional Conference for Africa, I am pleased to inform you that the 33rd Session will be hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco from 15 to 19 April 2024.

I wish you all the best for the FAO Conference.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted 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.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom (UK) thanks the Africa Regional Group for the report.

We welcome the emphasis on One Health and strongly agree with the importance of applying a One Health approach. We must learn the lessons and work towards preventing future pandemics and address the increasing threats to global health and socioeconomic progress posed by zoonotic diseases. To do this, we need to improve multi-sector stakeholder engagement and coordinated efforts to effectively respond to the complexity of health risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. We look forward to hearing how FAO plans to support this at country level.

The UK also supports the Regional Conference's recommendations, calling on FAO to support Members in the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and to double its efforts to support inclusiveness, especially with respect to women, youth and other vulnerable populations in the implementation of the Regional Priorities endorsed by the Regional Conference, which include:

- Sustainable production systems,
- Efficient and equitable nutrition systems,
- Climate action and sustainable natural resource management; and
- Building resilience towards ending poverty.

We look forward to hearing more on how FAO plans to step up its work in these areas. We also agree that implementation of FAO's Action Plans to deliver the FAO Strategy on Science and Innovation and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 will be key in making progress and would welcome regular updates.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*

**One Health Approach**

FAO, together with its partners (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO)), has supported the successful submission of 27 project proposals, 24 at country level and three at regional level, to the Pandemic Fund (PF) to strengthen the pandemic prevention,

preparedness and response (PPR) functions in the regions. The country projects are from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The regional ones are from the African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)/the African Union Development Agency (AUDANEPAD)/ the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre of the African Union (AU-PANVAC), Multicountry Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Zambia (Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance – SACIDS) and the Greater Virunga Landscape (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda). FAO assigned a PF support team comprising multidisciplinary experts from headquarters, regional, subregional and country representations who worked with the country and regional teams to develop quality review and submit the projects on time. FAO will continue supporting countries in the implementation of successful projects and further improving the unsuccessful proposals for the next PF call for proposals.

FAO developed a One Health Monitoring Tool (OHMT) by working with countries, the Quadripartite (WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the United Nations Environment Programme (NEP)) and development partners, which is being used for One Health country profiling. The profiling has already been completed in Cameroon, Liberia, and the United Republic of Tanzania, and is ongoing in Ghana and Gambia. FAO will continue supporting these countries with the validation and adoption of the reports and the implementation of priority actions. The OHMT has been successfully tested in countries of the Asia and the Pacific region as well and is being considered one of the tools for the implementation of the quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), recommended by One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP).

FAO is supporting 22 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) to improve the core capacities of the animal health sector. This contributes to building resilient health systems using the One Health approach in areas of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), zoonotic diseases, biosecurity and biosafety, national laboratory systems, surveillance and human resources.

FAO has supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to develop the strategic plan for the prevention and control of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the region to safeguard public health, improve poultry production and protect livelihoods. HPAI has not only caused substantial losses in the West African poultry industry but has also posed continuous threats to the rest of the continent.

Regarding innovation, FAO has supported 27 countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) in Africa to (i) detect AMR threats; (ii) implement community-level good practices to reduce antimicrobial uses and improve food safety; and (iii) build awareness among governments, producers, traders and other stakeholders on the responsible use of antimicrobials and to apply good practices in the production chain. This has been achieved by supporting countries to develop AMR national action plan laboratories and AMR surveillance assessments, strengthening capacities for early and accurate detection of AMR bacteria and by behavioural change interventions targeting producers through farmer field schools and the adoption of good practices through trained extension workers. This was delivered in collaboration with the African Union, WHO, WOAH and UNEP, Regional Economic Communities and development partners.

Kenya and Senegal are being supported for the development of One Health investment plans. This has used an innovative multisector and multistakeholder consultations approach to develop the investment plan.

To respond to climate change, FAO is supporting the Sahel countries Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal with livestock sector analyses and developing national and regional

master plans through capacity building on the uses of tools such as the Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit and the Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model – interactive (GLEAM-i).

FAO worked with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to tackle the climateimpacted livestock losses and livelihood strains in Eastern Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) through developing feeds and fodder strategies and action plans to ensure food security, nutrition and sustained livelihood in this region, and for the prevention and control of climate sensitive zoonotic diseases, which are often affected by droughts and other climate events. In this regard, FAO and IGAD are providing Members with regular, joint alerts on the risk of occurrence of Rift Valley fever (RVF) outbreaks in the region to improve multi-sectoral RVF preparedness and response to RVF<sup>1</sup>.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? For virtual participants, please use the “raise hand” in zoom to request for the floor and please be brief.

Now the floor is open.

#### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

Muy brevemente, la Unión Europea y sus 27 Estados Miembros queríamos disociarnos de la nominación de la Federación de Rusia como Miembro del Comité de Redacción.

#### **Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

The United Kingdom too disassociates the Russian Federation's nomination to the Drafting Committee.

#### **Mr Vito SU (United States of America)**

The United States of America would also like to disassociate from the Russian Federation from the Drafting Committee.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

The first question is a procedural one. As far as I understand it, you have only just mentioned the composition of the Drafting Committee. There were not any objections. And then you gavelled so to say that the decision was taken. So, for the beginning, I would like to have an answer to my question. Has the Drafting Committee been confirmed, and how do we now view the statements that have been made by a number of Members?

Secondly, if the composition of the Drafting Committee is not confirmed, in that case we regret that the work of the Commission is beginning with clear politicisation, and we would like it to be reflected in the Report that our country, in that case, dissociates itself from all of the candidates who will be speaking against our candidacy.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

You are right, I gavelled. So, we will take note of the remarks that are made now and leave it at that.

#### **Ms Emma HATCHER (Australia)**

Australia would like to join others in disassociating itself with the Russian Federation's nomination for the Drafting Committee and request that be reflected in the Report.

#### **Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Just to make a brief intervention to express Canada's disassociation with the Russian Federation being part of the Drafting Committee.

#### **Mr Shingo FUTAMI (Japan)**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6373en/cc6373en.pdf>

Japan would also like to disassociate itself with the nomination of the Russian Federation as a Member of the Drafting Committee.

**Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

It was certainly our understanding that the composition of the Drafting Committee had not been approved because we do not have a Chairperson yet. Otherwise, we would have made the objection previously. So, if we can just get some clarity on that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I did not indeed include the name of the Chairperson for the simple fact that we do not have that yet. So, that is to be decided later. But the composition of the Committee has been confirmed, as I gavelled that, indeed the colleague from the Russian Federation observed that as well. So, for now, we take note of the remarks made, and we will take them up in the Report. And as soon as the Chairperson is known, we will mention that as well and include that.

That is how we hope to proceed. So, indeed, I hope we can, after this, we can continue if there are no further remarks.

**Ms Josephine DAWSON (New Zealand)**

New Zealand would just like to support all the other Members that have stated that they would like to disassociate with the Russian Federation from being part of the Drafting Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON**

On the Chairperson, I think the Members of the Drafting Committee are in the room, so please confer amongst yourselves to decide who will be the Chair of the Drafting Committee and we can proceed from there as well. Can we conclude this little interbellum and then move on to where we were, Agenda Item 11?

No further countries want to take the floor. Then I would like to continue, and I actually ask you to, whether there were any remarks for Agenda Item 11. I do not see any hands up.

Honourable Minister, if you wish to respond.

**Su Excelencia José Juan NDONG TOMO MEKINA (Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural)**

Me gustaría dar un breve informe como resultado de las recomendaciones del 32.º período de Conferencia Regional de África (ARC) celebrado en Malabo del 11 al 14 de abril del año pasado.

En nombre de los países africanos, tengo el distinguido honor y privilegio de presentarles los resultados del 32.º período de Conferencia Regional para África de la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO). La Conferencia Regional registró la participación de 778 delegados de 54 Miembros constituidos por 62 Ministros, 20 Embajadores, 28 Organizaciones del sector privado, 31 Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, 34 Organizaciones intergubernamentales, 7 de Naciones Unidas y 3 observadores de Naciones Unidas.

Estimados Señores, permítanme presentar a la Conferencia un resumen de las principales recomendaciones sobre políticas regionales y mundiales y asuntos regulatorios. La conferencia regional discutió varios documentos clave relacionados con la prevención de futuras pandemias, los impactos de COVID-19 en los sistemas agroalimentarios, la inversión en la restauración de ecosistemas, la promoción del comercio y la inversión, la garantía de inclusión en los sistemas agroalimentarios y sesiones de intercambio de experiencias entre los países Miembros sobre una mejor producción, mejor nutrición, mejor medio ambiente y una mejor vida, sin dejar a nadie atrás.

Con respecto a la prevención de futuras pandemias, la Conferencia reconoció la importancia del compromiso multisectorial y la incorporación del enfoque “Una salud” en los documentos de política. El papel de la FAO y las acciones recomendadas incluyeron el apoyo al establecimiento de plataformas nacionales de “Una salud”, la alineación de políticas a nivel regional y nacional y la inclusión de “Una salud” en la programación y los esfuerzos de movilización de recursos.

En cuanto a los impactos de COVID-19 en los sistemas agroalimentarios, la conferencia reconoció los efectos negativos de la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, así como en la producción agrícola, ganadera y pesca. Se apreció el papel de la FAO en los esfuerzos de respuesta y recuperación y se hicieron recomendaciones para abordar las necesidades a corto plazo, implementar programas de recuperación, recopilar datos para comprender los riesgos y promover la transformación digital y la resiliencia en los sistemas alimentarios y agrícolas.

La Conferencia también discutió la importancia de invertir en la restauración de ecosistemas para la transformación sostenible de los sistemas agroalimentarios, se reconoció el papel de la FAO en la prestación de apoyo técnico y la promoción de intercambios de conocimientos. Se instó a los Miembros a alejarse de las prácticas insostenibles, aprovechar la oportunidad del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Restauración de los Ecosistemas 2021-2030, invertir en innovaciones y tecnologías y fortalecer las asociaciones y las instituciones.

Con respecto al comercio y la inversión, la Conferencia enfatizó la necesidad de incorporar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en los procesos del área de Libre Comercio Continental Africana (AfCFTA). Las recomendaciones incluyeron reducir el riesgo de inversión, promover la participación del sector privado, coordinar las políticas comerciales y de inversión e implementar las medidas para promover el libre comercio. La conferencia recomendó a la FAO mejorar el apoyo técnico, promover el aprendizaje entre pares y ayudar en el diseño de programas de protección social orientados al mercado.

También, la Conferencia destacó la importancia de la inclusión en los sistemas agroalimentarios, reconociendo la desigualdad y los desequilibrios de poder como limitaciones. En particular, se hizo hincapié en la igualdad de género, el empoderamiento de los jóvenes y la justicia social. Se recomendó a la FAO que introdujera tecnología que tuviera en cuenta las cuestiones de género, utilizar herramientas de elaborar perfiles y focalización, recopilar datos sensibles al género y promover esquemas de acuerdos tripartitos.

Se alentó a los Miembros a abordar las causas profundas de la pobreza rural, las desigualdades, salvaguardar los sistemas alimentarios de los pueblos indígenas, invertir en el desarrollo de capacidades y promover el aprendizaje entre pares y la inclusión.

Durante las Sesiones de intercambio de experiencias sobre una mejor producción, una mejor nutrición, un mejor medio ambiente y una mejor vida, los miembros y las partes interesadas intercambiaron historias poderosas y de éxito que podrían dar forma y transformar los sistemas agroalimentarios. La Sesión proporcionó una plataforma interactiva para discutir las mejores prácticas y estrategias para lograr la visión de transformar los sistemas agroalimentarios y alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) en África.

En general, la conferencia regional abordó varios temas de la prevención de futuras pandemias, la recuperación de los impactos de COVID-19, la restauración de ecosistemas, la promoción del comercio y la inversión y la garantía de inclusión en los sistemas agroalimentarios. Las recomendaciones destacaron la importancia de la participación multisectorial, la alineación de las políticas, la innovación, las alianzas y el abordaje de las desigualdades para un futuro más sostenible y resiliente.

Con respecto a la próxima Conferencia Regional para África, me complace informarles que la 33<sup>o</sup> Reunión será acogida por el Reino de Marruecos tentativamente en una fecha del 15 al 19 de abril de 2024. Estos en línea general los temas a abordar el 32<sup>o</sup> período de Conferencia Regional de la FAO para atender los desafíos que afronta nuestro continente

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I will now move on to my conclusions for Item 11.1, knowing that the response of the Management has been placed online. So that is included in our Verbatim Records. The conclusions will be on the screen.

Report of the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (APRC) held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea from 11th to 14th April 2022.

1. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.
2. It expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

Looking at the room, any Members with comments on these conclusions? If not, this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 11.1.

<b>Item 11.2</b>	<b><i>Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)</i></b>
<b>Point 11.2</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 mars 2022)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.2</b>	<b><i>Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Dacca [Bangladesh], 8-11 de marzo de 2022)</i></b>

## CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Sub-Item 11.2, *Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)*, document C 2023/15. As we get some new company on the podium, and I welcome my dear colleague Mr Shameem Ahsan from Bangladesh on the podium, as well as Ms Beth Bechdol on behalf of management.

Please note that the Report was adopted by the Regional Conference and was reviewed by the 170th Session of the Council and the introduction of the Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, the Honourable Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Minister for Agriculture of Bangladesh, has been published on the Conference webpage.

### **Introduction to Item 11.2: Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022)**

*The Honourable Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*

On behalf of the FAO Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific, it is an honour and a pleasure to share with the Conference this introduction regarding the outcome of the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The 36th session was hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and was the first of any FAO Regional Conference to convene both Senior Officials and Ministerial Sessions back-to-back, in hybrid modality, over four consecutive days. Over 1 100 participants registered, of which more than 400 registered to attend in-person. The Conference was completely digital and paperless, in keeping with the corporate policy on environmental sustainability.

It was also the first Regional Conference of any globally with in-person participation of Mr QU Dongyu, the Director-General of FAO. Ministers and Vice-Ministers representing 37 countries out of the region's membership of 45 delivered in-person or virtual statements during the plenaries. Six side events and three Ministerial Roundtables from Members anchored to agrifood systems transformation were organized.

The Conference:

- Recognized that the Asia and the Pacific region has been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed their commitment to a deep transformation of agrifood systems to regain lost ground on food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment.
- Emphasized the role of digitalization in transforming agrifood systems to be more inclusive and climate resilient.
- Highlighted the need for a more systemic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders in creating an enabling environment that makes the digitalization of agrifood systems more inclusive and sustainable, while addressing associated regulatory issues.



- Emphasized that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution for building climate resilient agrifood systems and to take into account that each nation has different levels of vulnerabilities and respective needs for development.
- Acknowledged the strategic role FAO has played in One Health to date, with technical support focused on zoonotic diseases, transboundary animal diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food safety, and the importance of its role in the Tripartite with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Emphasized the need for a more systematic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders for the sustainable management and utilization of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the Pacific region.
- Recognized the major actions carried out by FAO, the results achieved in 2020 and 2021 and the delivery and outcomes of FAO's work in the region, with over 500 projects having particularly adapted them to the context and conditions created by the unforeseen and unprecedented pandemic. • Noted the transformational change in the Organization and its technical units, including at regional and country level, to address multifaceted development challenges.
- Endorsed the four Regional Priorities identified for the 2022–2023 biennium based on key trends, issues and challenges in the Asia and the Pacific region.
- Recognized the relevance of the individual Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) mapping onto each of the four Regional Priorities in the proposed results framework and for the achievement of the four betters to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Welcomed the initiation of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, its vision and Theory of Change and its alignment to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.
- Welcomed the development of the Organization's first-ever FAO Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and commended its transparent and inclusive consultation process.

Members of the Asia and the Pacific region are striving to overcome the lingering and ongoing impacts of the overlapping pandemic and the 5F (food, feed, fertilizer, fuel and finance) crises. They are shifting the development trajectory towards long-term transformative change of agrifood systems and making them more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, leaving no one behind.

Members emphasized that FAO's role in assisting, catalysing and accompanying Members through this will be critical, and FAO must go all-out to fulfil these high expectations.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted 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.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia would like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for hosting the Regional Conference. We congratulate Bangladesh for undertaking the first fully hybrid Regional Conference, which facilitated valuable engagement from all Members on topics important to our region.

Australia is supportive of the regional priorities that emerged from the Regional Conference in Bangladesh and affirms the importance of FAO supporting the regional priorities for agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries sectors. FAO's efforts to address the issues that are relevant to the region will help deliver on these priorities so the region can better position itself in delivering on food security and agrifood growth challenges.

The Asia-Pacific region is on the front line of climate change, and building resilience to the impacts of climate change is a key priority for the Pacific and for Australia. We are committed to effective global action on climate change and support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Australia wishes to reiterate the importance of a One Health approach to protect the health of humans, animals and the environment. We further observe that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an important regional One Health priority. Australia supports the need to strengthen regular reporting on emerging pests in the Asia and Pacific regions. We have supported emerging regional plant pest initiatives through the coordination and delivery of regional surveillance workshops, presentations at regional workshops and regional representation in international "pest outbreak and alert" system workshops.

Australia reaffirms and supports the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific's emphasis on considering each nation's different levels of vulnerabilities and respective needs for development, and that there is no "one size fits all" solution for building climate resilient agrifood systems. Australia remains a steadfast partner in building climate change and disaster resilience in the Pacific, and we are committed to continuing to work closely with FAO and our Pacific partners so we can all achieve our goals, targets and aspirations.

Furthermore, digital technology and innovation play an important role in supporting agricultural productivity and sustainability, and Australia commends FAO on its work supporting inclusive digitalization and the uptake of technology in agricultural value chains in our region. Australia is committed to helping shape and deliver actions that can utilise innovation and inclusive digitalization to improve the sustainability, health and resilience of our global food systems, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

Finally, with regard to FAO's work on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors, we reaffirm the importance of a cross-sectoral framework of policies that are market-orientated, based on scientific evidence, take into account differing national circumstances and are consistent with international obligations, particularly in relation to trade. Effective biosecurity systems are an important mechanism for safeguarding against agricultural pest and diseases and thereby conserving biodiversity for agriculture and food security. We suggest the action plan acknowledge the important role played by biosecurity systems in this respect and include actions focused on strengthening them, collaboratively and in conjunction with existing initiatives in the region.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom thanks the Asia and Pacific region for the Report on their Regional Conference.

We fully agree with the emphasis on the need to strengthen international and regional collaboration and partnerships to increase impact, share and build on existing regional knowledge and avoid duplication. We look forward to hearing how FAO can support this, deepening collaboration with international and regional bodies towards the implementation of regional food security frameworks, improving natural resource management, regional fisheries and ecosystem-based management, promoting policy coherence and expanding a One Health Approach.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand was pleased to attend this regional meeting, virtually and provides the following comments: New Zealand is pleased to see that both the Director-General and the Independent Chairperson of the Council recognised the unique challenges facing the Asia and Pacific region.

We note in particular the recommendations from the Regional Conference regarding the State of Agriculture in the region and the recommendations 22 (ii) provide technical assistance and policy guidance for accelerating inclusive, sustainable agrifood transformation and robust agrifood supply chains resilient to future pandemics and other types of shocks, through closer alignment with sustainable, climate resilient and nutrition-sensitive investments; and 22 (iv) support Members in building stronger social protection system, inclusive of the most vulnerable groups to rebuild resilience, strengthen livelihoods and ensure better nutrition and food security under the principle of leaving no one behind. New Zealand looks forward to updates on these recommendations in relation to the work of FAO in the Pacific. In relation to the work on climate resilient agrifood systems in the region we would appreciate an update on recommendation 24 (v) regarding engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders to promote agri-resilient agrifood systems. It would be appreciated to understand the breath of the engagement in this area and what is proposed in the future.

Regarding One Health (OH), we note that under recommendation 28 (i) FAO has been requested to provide technical assistance to strengthen OH policy, governance and capacity. We would appreciate an update on this in the Pacific region. Also an update on the status of the OH policy brief that is referred to in 28(v).

In relation to Biodiversity, New Zealand would appreciate an update on the proposed regional plan on promoting cohesive action on mainstreaming biodiversity (recommendation 30 (i)) and the efforts to make the plan demand driven as referred to in recommendation 30 (ii).

New Zealand is pleased to see the increased focus and commitment to the Small Island Development States (SIDS) and that SIDS require specifically tailored solutions and practices. We do note the highlighted need for strengthened international and regional collaboration and partnership to increase the impact, build on exiting regional knowledge and avoid duplication. New Zealand fully supports the need to ensure that duplication of efforts is avoided and collaboration is essential.

Finally, climate change is of critical importance in the region, and we fully support increased focus on the Pacific region in this regard and look forward to seeing unique needs of the region addressed in the climate change efforts of FAO.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific thanks the United States of America for its kind words of appreciation and reaffirms its commitment towards implementing the recommendations of the report. FAO organized the Asia-Pacific Symposium on Agrifood Systems Transformation in October 2022 with Ministers and Convenors; the first post-UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) knowledge-based accelerator event and a platform for exchange of knowledge and foster learning across agrifood systems.

FAO is pleased to inform Australia that, driven by the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Solutions Platform, Pacific Members have highlighted digitalization in their food systems transformation roadmaps. They are being assisted to mobilize resources and partnerships (including South-South and Triangular Cooperation) for expertise from advanced Asian countries and supporting the identification, profiling and upscaling of Pacific-developed digital tools. Support to the SIDS on climate change includes:

- building national capacity in early warning, early action and implementation of short-term actions targeting the most vulnerable in Niue and the Cook Islands;
- responding to the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai Volcano and tsunami through the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Belgium and USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs;
- responding to the aftermath of the recent dual Category 4 cyclones in Vanuatu with a team of 21 expert staff on the ground;

- a feasibility study with the University of Technology, Sydney on anticipatory action with the next phases at national and community levels, utilizing information from Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu;
- conducting a number of pre-cyclone disaster risk management trainings in Fiji;
- conducting trainings for the Pacific SIDS negotiators on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA), gender equality in agriculture and loss and damage in preparation for the sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP 27; and
- endorsement of a set of recommendations on food security, agriculture and climate change at the 8th Regional Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services in March 2023.

FAO is pleased to update the United Kingdom on its cooperation with two regional fishery bodies in the execution and development of two GEF International Water Ecosystem based projects in the Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Thailand. There are also awareness raising and capacity building workshops planned for marine fishery stock assessment in cooperation with Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), the use of fishery support mechanisms in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the exploration of fishery management as an "other effective area-based conservation measure" (OECM) with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). FAO is also delivering capacity building and policy support to combat IUU fishing and the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement under a global programme. 2 FAO is pleased to update New Zealand that the Organization is leading a comprehensive programme of consultation and guidance to support countries to engage better with the global climate change framework. We have delivered:

- a series of online consultations on COP 26 outcomes and scaling up resilient and low emission landscapes in partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) organizations (March 2022) and a follow-up webinar (May 2022);
- a series of events on emissions measurements, monitoring and reduction from rice paddy soils and livestock (June, October- December 2022);
- region-specific events, during COP 27, including the launch of a new Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness project for enhanced climate finance and implementation of KJWA priorities in Southeast Asia and unlocking climate finance for agrifood system transformation (December 2022);
- a new publication with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development on scaling up private sector investment in sustainable rice (November 2022);
- workshops on an investment roadmap for agricultural climate services and pathways to net zero for agrifood and land use systems in Asia (December 2022); and
- an e-learning course on the UNFCCC, with ASEAN Secretariat and GIZ<sup>1</sup>, to advocate for action in support of agriculture sector priorities (March 2023) and lead the resilient food systems stream at the upcoming Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum in August 2023.

FAO's social protection programmes are concentrated in Asia and respond to urgent demands for shock-responsive social protection for ASEAN and policy integration approach for natural resources management in Bangladesh and India. They will be extended into the Pacific region.

FAO appreciates the comments by Australia and New Zealand on the Pacific sub-regional plan on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors, which will be presented for sub-regional consultation later in 2023. The suggestion to include biosecurity systems and associated actions is well noted. Stakeholder consultations in the 14 Pacific Island countries are currently underway and a

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<sup>1</sup> The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

briefing for Australia and New Zealand will be held in July 2023. In collaboration with the Pacific Community, the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, the Australian Government Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Foreign Affairs and Trade, FAO has delivered online One Health courses and plans to deliver more capacity building and consultation workshops for high-level officials on One Health governance, policy and actions. FAO has supported a World Bank Pandemic Fund proposal for the Federated States of Micronesia and more proposals will follow in the next round.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? And, again, for virtual participants, please use the raise hand in Zoom to request for the floor. Again, please be brief. The floor is open. Thank you. I do not see any hands up.

Mr Ambassador, if you wish to respond.

### **Mr Md. Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)**

On behalf of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC), it is an honour and a pleasure to share with the Conference this interaction regarding the outcome of the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC).

On behalf of His Excellency Mohammad, Dr Abdur Razzaque, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, who was the Chairperson of the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. The 36th Session was hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and was the first of any FAO Regional Conference to convene both senior officials and Ministerial Sessions back-to-back in a hybrid modality over four consecutive days.

Over 1 100 participants registered with more than 400 registered to attend in-person. The Conference was completely digital and paperless, in keeping with the corporate policy on environmental sustainability. It was also the first Regional Conference of any globally with the in-person participation of Mr QU Dongyu, the Director-General of FAO. Ministers and Vice-Ministers representing 37 countries out of the region's Membership of 45 delivered in-person or virtual statements during the plenaries. Six side events and three Ministerial roundtables from Members anchored to agrifood systems transformation were organized.

The Conference recognized that the Asia and the Pacific region has been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed their commitment to a deep transformation of agrifood systems to regain lost ground on food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and unemployment. Emphasized the role of digitalization in transforming agrifood systems to be more inclusive and climate-resilient. Highlighted the need for a more systemic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders in creating an enabling environment that makes the digitalisation of agrifood systems more inclusive and sustainable, while addressing associated regulatory issues.

Emphasised that there is no "one size fits all" solution for building climate resilient agrifood systems and to take into account that each nation has different levels of vulnerabilities and respective needs for development. Acknowledged the strategic role of FAO has played in one health to date with technical support focused on genetic diseases, transboundary animal diseases (TADs), antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food safety and the importance of its role in the tripartite with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Emphasised the need for a more systemic and coordinated approach among key sectors and stakeholders for the sustainable management and utilisation of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the Pacific Region. Recognized the major actions carried out by FAO, the results achieved in 2020 and 2021, and the delivery and outcome of FAO's work in the region with over 500 projects having particularly adapted them to the context and conditions created by the unforeseen and unprecedented pandemic.

Noticed the transformational change in the Organization and its technical units, including at the regional and country levels, to address multi-faceted development challenges. Endorsed the four regional priorities identified for the 2022 to 2023 biennium based on key trends, issues and challenges

in the Asia and the Pacific region. Recognized the relevance of the individual Programme Priority Areas, (PPA), mapping onto each of the four regional priorities in the proposed results framework and for the achievement of the four betters to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Welcomed the initiative of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change from 2022-31. The Vision and Theory of Change (ToC) and its alignment to the Strategic Framework 2022-31. Welcomed the development of the Organization's first ever Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and commended its transparent and inclusive consultation process. Members of the APRC are striving to overcome the lingering and ongoing impacts of the overlapping pandemic and the five Fs - Food, Feed, Fertilizer, Fuel and Finance crisis.

They are shifting the development trajectory towards a long-term transformative change of agrifood systems and making them more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, leaving no one behind. Members emphasized that FAO's role in assisting, catalysing and accompanying Members through this will be critical and FAO must go all out to fulfil these high expectations.

#### **Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

Just very briefly on behalf of Management, let me reiterate our thanks and gratitude to the government leadership and the people of Bangladesh for hosting such a successful 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC).

And, as the Ambassador so rightly pointed out, the first hybrid APRC for FAO has really set, I think, a very important precedent for many of our following convenings. I would also just simply like to close by thanking my colleague, the Assistant Director-General (ADG) and Regional Representative of the Asia Pacific region (RAP), Mr Jong-Jin Kim, and his entire team for their very hard work in delivering on a very successful APRC.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I thank you all and I propose we now move on to the draft conclusions for Sub-Item 11.2. I will ask the Secretary to put them on screen. I will read them for you.

Item 11.2, *Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific* (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 8-11 March 2022).

1. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.
2. It expressed its gratitude to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

The floor is now open for comments on the conclusions. If none, this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 11.2.

#### **Mr Md. Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)**

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and profound gratitude to FAO for the all-out support and cooperation we received in hosting the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) in Dhaka. And, as you have noted, that the event went very well with very high participation despite the challenges being posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. And, on a personal note, I had the good luck to attend the APRC from Rome to my capital. So, with these words, on behalf of the Chairperson of the 36th APRC, Honourable Agriculture Minister of Bangladesh, I express our deep appreciation to FAO, all entities and organizations, associated to make it a success.

<i>Item 11.3</i>	<i>Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)</i>
<i>Point 11.3</i>	<i>Rapport de la 33<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (Lodz [Pologne], 10-13 mai 2022)</i>
<i>Tema 11.3</i>	<i>Informe del 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (Lodz [Polonia], 10-13 de mayo de 2022)</i>

## CHAIRPERSON

With this, we move to the next Sub-Item 11.3, *Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)*, document C 2023/16.

Please note that the Report was adopted by the Regional Conference, and was reviewed by the 170th Session of the Council.

The introduction of the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC), His Excellency Zbigniew Rau, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, has been published on the Conference webpage and as you note, there will be not representative from the Chairs on this podium. There is one other reason for that, because I was the Vice-Chairperson and I would have had to change hats for this occasion. Therefore we refer to the introduction that was made available on the website for your reference.

According to the written inputs we have received, which have been published on the Conference website, 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.

### **Introduction to Item 11.3: Report of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022)**

*Mr Zbigniew Rau, Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe*

The 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC) was held in Łódź, Poland, from 10 to 13 May 2022 in a hybrid modality. The Session was attended by 269 participants, including 15 ministers, 13 deputy ministers and state secretaries, and representatives from 52 Members, along with more than 50 Observers.

The Regional Conference global policy discussions focused on: i) Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine<sup>1</sup>; ii) The road to transformative agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia – Regional actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31; and iii) Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, a practical approach for transforming agrifood systems for healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia.

Under the item on the Implications on world food security arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Members adopted by vote a decision en bloc condemning the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, demanding that the Russian Federation immediately cease its unlawful activities and ensure the resumption of shipments of food and agricultural commodities from and to Ukraine, recalling and reaffirming the decision<sup>2</sup> adopted by the FAO Council at its 169th Session on 8 April 2022 in this regard. Furthermore, Members requested FAO to assess the damage and the reconstruction and rehabilitation costs to the Ukrainian agriculture and food sector, to prepare and implement short, medium and long-term assistance plans for Ukraine, as well as for the most affected countries in the Black Sea region, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Western Balkans, and to contribute to strengthen global market transparency and coordination among Members, through initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System.

The Regional Conference underlined the impact that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine is having in stoking prices for food, fuel, fertiliser, and other agricultural inputs. Hence, the Regional Conference expressed grave concerns that the war in Ukraine posed serious risks for short-term global food security outcomes, as well as for the broader 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Regional Conference remained seized of the matter and decided to add it to the agenda of the next regular session of the ERC. The Regional Conference requested FAO to report regularly to Members, including through the FAO Governing Bodies.

<sup>1</sup> Reference is made to ERC/22/INF/14: Letter from FAO Members – request for an additional agenda item at the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC).

<sup>2</sup> CL 169/REP, paragraph 11.

In relation to the item on the Road to transformative agrifood systems, the Regional Conference recommended that Members affirm the critical importance of coordinated action and investment in technology, digital solutions, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital and institutions) to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development towards more sustainable agrifood systems, while sharing experiences on effective actions and best practices identified as critical to ensuring that agrifood systems developments contribute to an acceleration in the delivery of the SDGs. Furthermore, the ERC recommended that Members continue facilitating cooperation among multiple stakeholders, including policymakers, the private sector and civil society and across sectors to build upon the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) results and commit to supporting national, regional and local actions, including the implementation of national pathways. Working together to address common regional agrifood systems issues through multilateral instruments and platforms, and the important role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the continuation of implementing the CFS guidelines and policy recommendations, including those related to food loss and waste and agroecology, were recognized as well.

The ERC recommended Members continue collecting and sharing data and evidence to inform policy decisions and actions and to measure the performance of agrifood systems by including targets and results for sustainability. The ERC also recommended strengthening resilience by investing in smallholders and family farms, short supply chains and local markets and updating agrifood systems to be better prepared, adaptable and autonomous.

Under the same item the Regional Conference recommended that Members commit to focusing sustainable agrifood interventions to provide healthy diets for all, including a production shift to increase availability of plant-based foods, with due attention to facilitating the nutrition transition. Further recommendations were given to Members to work in a cross-sectoral way to improve the food environment for consumers, including in schools, and increase consumers' awareness of food and nutrition so that they can make informed choices to address all forms of malnutrition; and to promote sustainable agrifood systems through nature-based solutions and the greening of the sector, including through responsible investments, agroecology, bioeconomy and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Furthermore, the ERC recommended that Members improve the social sustainability and inclusivity of agrifood systems through gender- and age-balanced approaches to empower women and youth as agents of change in order to ensure sustainable rural development and equitable agrifood livelihoods in line with the framework of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

With regards to the item on Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, the Regional Conference emphasized the need to upscale the use of the nutrition-sensitive value chain approach to identify nutritional challenges and potential solutions and to consider the development and updating of sustainable national food-based dietary guidelines. The ERC supported the development of voluntary tools, mechanisms or instruments that encourage the adoption of responsible business conduct that focus on nutritional approaches. Emphasis was also given on building nutrition-sensitive value chain capacities among agricultural and other extension services to transform agrifood systems and fill gaps in understanding practical techniques for the storage, distribution, processing, packaging, retail and marketing of safe, nutrient-rich and diverse food. The ERC further emphasized the need to embed in ongoing food policy alignment efforts (including trade policy) a concept of "value" that moves beyond a purely economic focus to one that encompasses nutrition, health, social and environmental values. The need to raise the level of ambition for nutritional outcomes by targeting not only economically active groups but also the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups, including women and youth was also emphasized.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



*Submitted 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**

*Submitted 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**

*Submitted 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 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.

### ***Response from Secretariat Réponses du Secrétariat Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The Secretariat appreciates the statements of support expressed by most of the Members from the Europe and Central Asia Region, as well as the United States of America. All comments and recommendations are duly noted by the Secretariat, including those emphasizing the importance of FAO’s work on food systems transformation, including the need for integrating the true cost into the design of food policies and working not just for, but with, youth, as well as supporting Members in implementing the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)’s various voluntary guidelines and policy recommendations. FAO will continue to work further on these highlighted issues but also on duly executing all actions contained in the report. The disassociation of the Russian Federation – and some

other Members of the region – from certain paragraphs of the report are also noted, as already reflected in the report itself.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? Again, for virtual participants, use “raise hand” in zoom to request for the floor. Please be brief.

If you want to take the floor, I urge you not to repeat the issues that are already recorded in the Report. Now the floor is open.

I do not see any hands up. Management, if you wish to respond, please let me know. I think you want. Mr Laurent Thomas, the floor is yours.

#### **Mr. Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General)**

No response, just since you gave me the floor, the possibility to have the floor to thank the Government of Poland for having hosted this Regional Conference, which we considered was a success. Key issues that were discussed related to food and agriculture in Europe and Central Asia were needed now more than ever and we believe that the result of this Conference would be extremely useful for the Countries of the Region.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think I can now move to the draft conclusions again, and I asked the Secretary to put those on screen. There we go.

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

1. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.
2. It expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Poland, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

There is a footnote to number one and that reads "*The Russian Federation opposes the Conference's endorsement of the decision contained in the Report on the work of the Regional Conference for Europe as well as paragraph 40 of the Report.*"

The floor is now open for Members comments on the conclusion. If not, then this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 11.3.

<b>Item 11.4</b>	<b><i>Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)</i></b>
<b>Point 11.4</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 37<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Quito [Équateur], 28 mars – 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2022)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.4</b>	<b><i>Informe del 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Quito [Ecuador], 28 de marzo - 1 de abril de 2022)</i></b>

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We continue with Sub-Item 11.4, *Report on the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)*, held in document C2023/17. Please note that the Report was adopted by the Regional Conference and was reviewed by the 117th Session of the Council.

The introduction of the Chairperson of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, His Excellency Mr Pedro Alava Gonzalez, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, has been published on the Conference website.

***Introduction to Item 11.4: Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March – 1 April 2022)***

*Mr Pedro Álava González, Chairperson of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean*

Chairperson, Distinguished Members, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to address the Conference today, on behalf of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. I will present a summary of the recommendations of the Regional Conference that Ecuador was honoured to host in a hybrid format from 28 March to 1 April 2022.

I would like to single out and thank the 586 participants from 33 Member Nations, including one Head of State, one Prime Minister, one Vice-President, 64 Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, 18 Ambassadors, three Members as observers, representatives of eight United Nations organizations, four intergovernmental organizations, 14 civil society organizations, one representative of the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger, 13 private sector organizations, and 13 scientific and academic organizations.

In my presentation, I will focus, specifically, on the section on regional and global policy and regulatory matters.

At the conference, Members unanimously endorsed FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, which, in alignment with the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development, calls for supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by transforming toward more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. The goal is to achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Regional Conference considered policy issues for the region, under the theme of "Regional results, priorities, the *four betters*, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part I".

The Conference recognized FAO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, leveraging the Organization's convening power and supporting Members to strengthen the resilience of agrifood systems, guaranteeing food production and supply. It also encouraged FAO to continue its dialogue with Members on the Director-General's initiatives, with a view to maximizing the impact of FAO's work at the national and regional levels.

It welcomed the 78 percent increase in resource mobilization, as compared to the previous biennium. It acknowledged the importance of South–South and Triangular Cooperation, and highlighted that collaborating with the private sector, civil society, the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, academia and the scientific community, among others, allowed the mobilization of resources, technical exchange, capacity building, knowledge management, the development of innovations and the implementation of good practices.

The Regional Conference highlighted FAO's contribution toward food and nutrition security and recommendations on public policies and regulations, with a special emphasis on nutrition education, school feeding programmes and the promotion of value chains and healthy diets.

It highlighted FAO's support in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the region. It lamented with concern the ageing trend among agricultural producers and the need to include young people in agricultural entrepreneurship initiatives and underscored the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed language.

Members discussed innovations to address rising prices for food and agricultural inputs for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life. They highlighted political will, commitment and clear goals, as well as public and private investments and resources, institutional changes and sustained capacity development processes as essential to implement, sustain and achieve innovation and impact in the short and medium term.

Chairperson, in this context and in relation to policy and regulatory matters, the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean invites this Conference to review and affirm that FAO:

1. Will continue and intensify its resource mobilization efforts to foster public and private investments in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, FAO's Strategic

Framework 2022-31 and Country Programming Frameworks, stressing the importance of proactively identifying and realizing new opportunities to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in the region; and

2. Will give greater importance to prospective analysis, knowledge management, the digitalization of agrifood systems and the improvement of innovative experiences in countries, subregions and regions, especially to promote rural rootedness, with an emphasis on smallholder family farmers, in particular, peasants and Indigenous Peoples.

Reaffirming the importance of the regional commissions, the Conference requested that they hold their regular meetings no later than the first half of the second year of the biennium, so that recommendations and technical decisions could be addressed in a timely and orderly manner ahead of the Regional Conference.

Finally, Chairperson, on behalf of the Government of Ecuador, presided by Mr. Guillermo Lasso, and in my capacity as Chairperson of the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, I thank the Members once again for the confidence placed in our country.

At the same time, I reaffirm before this Conference our satisfaction with FAO's strategic leadership at the global and regional levels, and the need to continue to count on the Organization's technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources necessary to contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals – ending poverty, zero hunger and the reduction of inequalities – and to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia agradece la presentación de este informe y la organización del 37° Periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. La Conferencia Regional, organizada por Ecuador en 2022, fue una excelente oportunidad para que los países de la región reconocieran los resultados obtenidos por la FAO durante 2020- 2021, así como para recordar las graves consecuencias de la pandemia de COVID 19 en la región y reflexionar acerca de las lecciones aprendidas; así, se hizo más necesario que nunca recordar la importancia del trabajo de la FAO para erradicar la pobreza, erradicar el hambre, combatir el cambio climático y proteger los recursos naturales, objetivos que están en el centro de la Agenda 2030, y que Colombia apoya firmemente.

La Conferencia Regional fue igualmente un espacio para recalcar la importancia de las cuatro mejoras planteadas en el Marco Estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031: una mejor nutrición, un mejor medio ambiente y una vida mejor, sin dejar a nadie atrás. Colombia resalta la relevancia que representan estas cuatro mejoras para el desarrollo sostenible y la necesidad de avanzar en la transformación de los sistemas alimentarios para poner fin al hambre, respaldar la recuperación económica, generar empleo, avanzar hacia la igualdad de género, y mejorar la gestión de los recursos naturales.

Finalmente, Colombia agradece el valioso intercambio de información que tuvo lugar en la Conferencia, especialmente en lo relativo a la información actualizada sobre la situación de los precios de los alimentos y de los insumos agrícolas y sus impactos en los sistemas agroalimentarios de la región. Consideramos que contar con esta información, análisis y espacios de discusión se hace más necesario que nunca considerando las graves repercusiones que tiene el incremento de los precios de los alimentos en los indicadores de nutrición e inseguridad alimentaria.

Colombia espera seguir aportando sus experiencias y avances en futuras Conferencias Regionales, pues actualmente el país se encuentra implementando, en el marco de nuestro Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Colombia Potencia Mundial de la Vida, una variedad de programas y políticas para garantizar el Derecho Humano a la Alimentación que podemos compartir con los demás países de la región y del mundo, para identificar los desafíos, retos, oportunidades y soluciones que enfrentamos conjuntamente.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted 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.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Como acordado durante la Conferencia, entendemos el Marco Estratégico de FAO para 2022-2030 debe promover el desarrollo sostenible de América Latina y el Caribe y, en ese sentido, facilitar esquemas de creación de capacidades y cooperación para reforzar los sistemas alimentarios de la región; en particular, teniendo en cuenta los duraderos impactos del COVID-19.

Asimismo, nos gustaría recordar que la narrativa del nuevo Marco Estratégico debe promover la transformación, alentada de forma coherente, según correspondiera y de conformidad con los contextos, capacidades nacionales y en función de estos, con miras a lograr sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes, inclusivos resilientes y sostenibles. Igualmente, nos permitimos indicar la necesidad de adaptar la implementación del Marco Estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2030 al contexto local de nuestra región, prestando apoyo a los países para lograr los objetivos de las esferas programáticas de dicho documento; en especial, movilizándolo fondos suficientes para atender las necesidades de la LARC.

El contexto regional, también, consideramos imprescindible que las nuevas Estrategias de Cambio Climático y Ciencia e Innovación de FAO, en sus respectivos planes de implementación, atiendan las necesidades concretas de los países y, promuevan, la transferencia de tecnología, el desarrollo de enfoques biotecnológicos, la aplicación de soluciones digitales a la agricultura y el desarrollo de tecnologías que aumenten la eficiencia, por ejemplo, en los sistemas de riego. Finalmente, nos gustaría ratificar los siguientes mensajes contenido en el informe de la Conferencia:

- a. Prestar apoyo a los Miembros para asegurar la diversidad de usos de la tierra, la fertilidad y salud de los suelos, la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad en los sistemas agroalimentarios y la provisión de servicios ecosistémicos.
- b. Mantener y aumentar el apoyo a los Miembros para aplicar la Iniciativa Mano de la mano con el objetivo de reforzar los procesos de planificación y movilización de inversiones y la inclusión de enfoques holísticos que acelerasen la transformación agrícola y el desarrollo rural sostenible, de forma coherente, según correspondiera, y de conformidad con los contextos y prioridades existentes.
- c. Prestar mayor asistencia técnica a los Miembros para fortalecer y mejorar su capacidad, resiliencia y acceso a los mercados, a las cadenas de suministro de alimentos y al comercio de acuerdo con las reglas de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.
- d. Apoyar a los Miembros para que desarrollasen sus cadenas de suministro de alimentos y comercio con miras a promover la inclusión de la agricultura familiar y de las pequeñas y medianas empresas en los mercados y en el comercio internacional para contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional.
- e. Incorporar los principios establecidos en el Acuerdo de París, como la equidad en la aplicación de la Estrategia, y el principio de las responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas, en vista de las prioridades y las necesidades regionales, subregionales y las diferencias en los contextos de cada Miembro, y reconocer la importancia del desarrollo y la transferencia de tecnología para mejorar la resiliencia ante el cambio climático y reducir las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero.
- f. Brindar apoyo a los Miembros que lo soliciten para que implementen medidas de adaptación y mitigación dirigidas a hacer frente a los desafíos del cambio climático, y fortalezcan sus políticas,

estrategias y mecanismos nacionales, subregionales y regionales, de forma coherente, según corresponda, y de conformidad con los contextos y capacidades existentes;

g. Utilizar en su labor enfoques holísticos e innovadores, incluyendo la biotecnología, la edición genómica, la siembra directa y otras herramientas técnicas, promoviendo los vínculos entre cambio climático, restauración de ecosistemas productivos, gestión integrada de recursos hídricos, planificación y ordenamiento territorial y lucha contra la desertificación, la degradación de los suelos y la deforestación ilegal.

h. Utilizar el lenguaje acordado a nivel multilateral, en especial el acordado en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, para la elaboración de sus Documentos, Marcos Estratégicos y Planes de Acción.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom welcomes the Latin America and the Caribbean region's emphasis on youth, gender, and women and girls and fully supports the call for FAO to strengthen its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

We furthermore agree with the region that both the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention should remain top priorities for FAO, and we look forward to this being reflected in strategic and resource planning.

### ***Response from Secretariat Réponses du Secrétariat Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO thanks the governments of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the comments provided and the ratification of multiple messages from the Conference Report, as well as for their appreciation of the space that the Regional Conference provided to facilitate an interchange of experiences, updated information and analysis among Members. We acknowledge your appreciation of the exceptional support FAO provided to Members to promote food security and agrifood systems following the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also take note of the relevance you assign to the four betters and Strategic Framework 2022-31, which should promote transformation in a way which is tailored to different contexts and national capacities, with a view to achieve more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems. We register your interest that the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy promote technologies that improve efficiencies.

We note the priority to be placed on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention. On this basis, we thank you for your endorsement of the Regional Conference reports, including the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC).

Moving forward, we also welcome your suggestion that the 38th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC), to be held in Guyana in March 2024, offers an opportunity to renew a regional pact to achieve food security in the face of current challenges, in the form of a follow-up to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Plan for Food Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025, which is to be relaunched by President protempore in November 2024.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

As you see, my company becomes smaller and smaller. The two that were supposed to represent us here on behalf of Management are in the room above in the roundtable on water, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and Ms Maria Helena Semedo.

So, we will stick to the statements that have been put on the website. But before we move to conclusions, any Members wish to make further comments under this Item?

**Su Excelencia Patricio Esteban TROYA SUAREZ (Ecuador)**

. Solo quiero agradecerle a usted por la cortesía de haberme cedido el uso de la palabra para intervenir brevemente a fin de darle las gracias a todo el equipo de la FAO por la exitosa realización del 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe (LARC 37) que tuvo lugar en Quito, Ecuador.

A nombre del gobierno de la República de Ecuador quiero hacer público el agradecimiento de mi país para el equipo de la FAO. Consideramos que la reunión que tuvo lugar en Quito, fue una reunión extremadamente exitosa. Recibimos a una gran cantidad de delegaciones, de ministros y viceministros de toda la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Logramos la aprobación de una gran cantidad de acuerdos que reflejan la posición de América Latina y el Caribe sobre temas de gran importancia para la región y para la FAO.

El gobierno de Ecuador ha comprometido su apoyo para una exitosa realización de la 38.a Conferencia Regional que tendrá lugar en Guyana el próximo año. Esperamos ser un país proactivo de una región que está firmemente comprometida en su cooperación con FAO y en la búsqueda de soluciones para los problemas que afectan a nuestra región. América Latina tiene el potencial de convertirse en el granero del mundo y estamos seguros de que con la colaboración de FAO y de otras agencias de la ONU en Roma, América Latina pronto va a cumplir ese papel.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now pass the floor to the Regional Director.

**Sr. Mario LUBETKIN (Representante Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe)**

Me sumo a las palabras y aprovecho la presencia de las autoridades ecuatorianas que en forma virtual, en un momento muy particular de la vida de ese país, no han querido estar ausentes en este momento aquí y quiero destacar esa presencia porque eso significa la continuidad más allá de las coyunturas políticas que vive cada país en los compromisos alrededor de la FAO, en relación a las resoluciones, las importantísimas resoluciones aprobadas en Ecuador y que con gran felicidad por parte de la FAO ya podemos decir que hemos superado el cumplimiento del 60% de las indicaciones que se recibieron por parte de los gobiernos en abril de 2022 y que nos ha generado las excelentes condiciones para hacer el tránsito en preparación a la próxima Conferencia Regional que se realizará en marzo de 2024 en el Caribe, en Georgetown, Guyana.

Y, por lo tanto, este proceso ha tomado una dinámica y una estabilidad muy importante y en eso hay que agradecer a la presidencia ecuatoriana, también a lo que será la futura presidencia de Guyana y la combinación de tres realidades de la región, como es el Caribe, Centroamérica y Sudamérica, que están interactuando de forma conjunta en una nueva fase, en un nuevo escenario, y que, sin duda, garantizará gracias al Gobierno de Ecuador, gracias a los 33 Gobiernos de América Latina en un excelente evento en marzo de 2024 cuando nos reuniremos nuevamente en Georgetown, Guyana.

**CHAIRPERSON**

With this, I think we can move on to the draft conclusions. They are put on the screen. I will read them for you.

Item 11.4, *Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean* (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022).

1. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.
2. It expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Ecuador, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

Any comments from the floor which is now open? I do not see any. So, I can conclude Sub-Item 11.4 as well.

**Item 11.5**      ***Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting 10- 13 January 2022 and Ministerial Meeting 7-8 February 2022)***

<b>Point 11.5</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 36<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 janvier 2022 [réunion des hauts fonctionnaires] et 7-8 février 2022 [session ministérielle])</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.5</b>	<b><i>Informe del 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Bagdad [Iraq], 10-13 de enero de 2022 [reunión de oficiales superiores] y 7 y 8 de febrero de 2022 [serie de sesiones de nivel ministerial])</i></b>

## CHAIRPERSON

We move to Sub-Item 11.5, *Report of this 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (Baghdad, Iraq, Senior Officers Meeting, 10-13 January 2022 and the Ministerial meeting, 7-8 February 2022)*, document C 2023/18.

Please note that the Report was adopted by the Regional Conference and was reviewed by the 117th Session of the Council. The introduction of the Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East, His Excellency Mr Mithaq Abdul-Hussein Obaid from Iraq has been published on the Conference website.

### **Introduction to Item 11.5: Report of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East**

*Mr Mithaq Abdul-Hussein Obaid, Chairperson of the Senior Officers Meeting of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East.*

I am pleased to present the salient highlights of the report of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 36). The Conference was comprised of a virtual Senior Officers Meeting, which took place from 10 to 13 January 2022, followed by a hybrid Ministerial Meeting which took place on 7-8 February 2022 in Baghdad, Iraq.

The Senior Officers Meeting focused on four central Regional Priorities: (i) Rural transformation for youth employment and income; (ii) Transforming agrifood systems to promote healthy diets for all; (iii) Greening agriculture; and (iv) Building resilience for food security and nutrition. The Ministerial Meeting was divided into three ministerial roundtables, which explored the linkages between the four Regional Priorities and the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize the key outcomes in relation to global policy and regulatory matters, for the attention of the Conference.

Very briefly, under the theme of rural transformation for youth employment and income, the Regional Conference emphasized the importance of sustainable agriculture intensification and value chain development, in particular for small-scale producers and youth. FAO and Members were called upon to strengthen producer organizations and enhance pluralistic and market-oriented rural advisory and extension services. In addition, FAO and Members were recommended to increase investment in agri-entrepreneurship opportunities for youth and in agriculture innovation and digitalization in line with the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

Under the second theme of transforming agrifood systems to promote healthy diets for all, the Regional Conference requested FAO and Members to pursue trade, investment and technology as enablers of a Regional Agrifood Systems Transformative Agenda. Emphasis was also placed on integrating consumer awareness and behaviour change as a driver for achieving healthy diets and sustainable agrifood systems.

Under the third theme of greening agriculture, the Regional Conference called upon Members and FAO to accelerate coordination between water, food security, climate and environmental policies and to benefit from the opportunity of hosting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 27 and COP 28 to create appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, funding and implementing climate response actions in the context of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031. The Regional Conference called for leveraging the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration for increased restoration actions, sustainable agriculture practices and the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation.



Under the fourth theme of resilience for food security and nutrition, the Regional Conference called upon Members and FAO to pursue holistic and multi-hazard risk management. This includes early warning systems, social protection programmes and crop and livestock insurance that are shock-responsive as well as gender, age, nutrition and risk-sensitive. Members, with the support of FAO, were requested to strengthen regional collaboration to address transboundary pests and diseases, including through the establishment of a regional trust fund and adoption of a One Health approach.

Across the Regional Priorities, gender-transformative approaches, gender- and age-sensitive analysis and increased capacities to mainstream gender were highlighted by the Conference as key prerequisites for inclusive agrifood system transformation.

Finally, the recommendations from the Regional Commissions were endorsed with additional requests to strengthen the national Desert Locust Control units and expedite the establishment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Aquaculture and Fisheries Organization (RAAFO).

Thank you and I am happy to respond to any queries you may have.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Submitted 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.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the input received from the United States of America appreciating the work of the Regional Conference and the endorsements by the Regional Conference for the Near East. We reiterate our resolve to take guidance from and support Members in furthering the work of FAO, as per our mandate and the Strategic Framework 2022-31.

## CHAIRPERSON

Before we move to conclusions, any Members wish to make further comments under this Item.

Management, do you wish to respond?

### Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General)

I would like just to thank the Government of Iraq for having hosted the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East and the Members of the Regional Group for very clear guidance on the priorities for the region, which will help us deliver on the programme for the coming years.

## CHAIRPERSON

With that, we can go to the draft conclusions already. Secretariat, I will read them again. Item 11.5, *Report of this 36th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East, (Baghdad, Iraq, and a Senior Officers Meeting, 10-13 January 2022 and the Ministerial meeting, 7-8 February 2022)*.

1. The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein.
2. It expressed its gratitude to the Republic of Iraq, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

I look around the room, I do not see any flags raised. So, this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 11.5.

*Item 11.6      Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America*  
*(United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)*

<b>Point 11.6</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 7<sup>e</sup> Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (États-Unis d'Amérique, 12-14 avril 2022)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.6</b>	<b><i>Informe de la séptima Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (Estados Unidos de América, 12-14 de abril de 2022)</i></b>

## **CHAIRPERSON**

The sixth Sub-Item is Sub-Item 11.6, *Report of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)*, document C 2023/LIM.1. Please note that the Report was reviewed by the 117th Session of the Council. The introduction of the Chairperson of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America, Her Excellency Ms Michelle Sison, the United States of America, has been published on the Conference webpage.

### **Introduction to Item 11.6: Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)**

*Ms Michelle Sison, Chairperson of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America*

The North America Region supports FAO in facing significant challenges in its work to support global food security, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially ending hunger (SDG 2), and to ensure productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry sectors.

The Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) highlights negative trends to be addressed in global food security exacerbated by the increasing impacts of climate change, COVID-19, declining global agricultural productivity growth, conflict, and Russia's unjustified and illegal war in Ukraine. It specifically addresses Russian attacks targeting critical agricultural infrastructure in Ukraine, as well as Russian actions detrimental to the vital shipments of Ukrainian grains and other food exports.

At this time of increasing crisis, the North America Region believes the world needs FAO to be a strong advocate for evidence-based efforts to increase sustainable productivity growth, increase social inclusion, improve sustainability and enable all actors in food systems – countries, producers, civil society, the private sector and consumers – to collaborate to find solutions to our common problems. This will require effective and transparent governance.

The Seventh INARC addressed the critical role North America played in tFAO's creation and policy direction, celebrating past successes, implementation of North American recommendations since the last INARC, and laying out perspectives on the imminent challenges ahead for global food security. These problems include climate change and variability, protracted conflicts, effective humanitarian responses and creating more resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

The North America Region agreed on the need for agricultural innovation and technologies to increase sustainable productivity, while also addressing the large environmental footprint of global agriculture. The North America Region emphasized FAO's enduring added value supporting normative work and standard-setting bodies, underpinned by science and called on FAO to focus on implementation of ambitious climate change and science and innovation strategies.

We unequivocally denounced Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and its devastating effects on global food supply chains and food security. The North America Region also called on FAO to demonstrate leadership within the UN system on the short-, medium-, and long-term response in Ukraine and beyond, prioritizing efforts to relieve the effects on the most vulnerable states, while continuing to aspire for best in class management practices.

***Comments from Members  
Commentaires des Membres  
Observaciones de los Miembros***

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted 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**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation fundamentally opposes interference by the United States of America and other countries from outside the region in European regional affairs.

We oppose the approval of the Report and the recommendations contained therein.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada and the United States of America, as the two countries in the FAO's North America region, chose once again in 2022 to hold an informal Regional Conference supported by the FAO Liaison Office in North America. The Informal Regional Conference for North America—known by the acronym INARC—took place virtually from 12 to 14 April 2022.

It is our expectation that the views and strategic direction that emerge from these meetings continue to inform FAO's priorities, budgets, and governance in a manner similar to the formal Regional Conferences. The 2022 INARC opened with acknowledgement that Russia's war on Ukraine has exacerbated already-significant challenges to global food security, and that FAO has important roles to play in response, through both the timely provision of accurate information, and the continued encouragement to countries to maintain openness, predictability and transparency in agricultural markets and trade.

Speakers highlighted the critical importance of FAO mandate, and the invaluable contributions of the Organization's standard-setting and normative work, and its technical expertise, to food safety and security, while also emphasizing that FAO must rapidly expand its focus on climate resilience and adaptation.

The INARC resulted in five key strategic recommendations for FAO to consider:

- The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is having grave impacts on global food security, and FAO needs to ensure full implementation of the Council decision contained in CL 169/REP;
- FAO should continue to bolster its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, transparency, accountability and gender-responsiveness in its role as a specialized UN agency supporting the rules-based international system;
- FAO should increase support to Members for sustainable growth of agricultural productivity, reducing emissions and building resilience, and should be clear and vocal in promoting the evidence that agriculture is part of the "solution" to climate change;
- FAO should be a global purveyor of best-possible data and scientific and analytical advice and tools, for addressing existing and emerging challenges to global food security in proven and innovative ways; and
- FAO should affirm, promote and provide technical assistance to Members in support of trade as a key tool for improving resilience.

Canada would like to call for endorsement of this regional report, as well as all other regional reports, as was done at the 170th Session of the Council.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The productive exchanges during the Seventh biennial Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) laid a solid pathway for the North America Region's engagement with FAO. FAO takes note of the North America region commending FAO for implementing the recommendations of the North America region since the last INARC, and for sharing perspectives on the imminent challenges ahead for global food security within FAO's mandate, including climate change and variability, protracted conflicts, effective humanitarian responses and creating more resilient, inclusive agrifood systems. Both FAO and Members of the North America region underscored the need for agricultural innovation and technologies to increase sustainable productivity, while also addressing the large environmental footprint of global agriculture. FAO is appreciative of the comments made on the report.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? I do not see any. Management, do you wish to respond?

#### **Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

I will be very brief. I see that the Director of our Liaison Office is not with us at the moment. However, let me say on response of Management that this is a very unique convening as an Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) that is comprised of both the United States of America and Canada.

I think many of the very similar concerns that have been raised by so many of the other regional Conferences came through in this particular Session. Also, very strongly there was clear recommendations that FAO uses its unique position as a lead UN food security agency to enhance system wide coordination and action.

The iNARC reaffirmed its strong commitment to collaborate with FAO and all of its Members and very much had a frank and informal, candid exchange on a number of very important topics. The region called on FAO to continue its best-in-class management and to focus on appropriate and effective governance, transparency and internal management practices, while at the same time very much supporting the very ambitious climate change and science and innovation strategies.

There was also a very important set of discussions around ensuring that we focus on gender-responsive approaches and also take into consideration very important programming to support Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable communities.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can now move on to draft conclusions. Looking around the room if there are no comments from the floor. Secretariat, please.

Item 11.6, *Report of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)*.

1. The Conference took note of the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America, which was held to allow Member Nations of the Region to make inputs into the Organization's prioritisation process.

Is this acceptable to you all?

#### **Mr Vito SU (United States of America)**

The United States of America proposes to change the word "*took note*" to "*endorse*". The rationale is that the 178th Session of the Council, in its Report, also endorsed the Informal North American Regional Conference's Report in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Report.

#### **Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

In connection with the proposal of the United States of America, we have a question for the Secretariat. Given that the Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) was Informal, and the Report was placed in the section of documents as it was for information, can the Commission and the

Conference adopt the Report? Or our view is that the wording "*took note*" is more in keeping with the character of the Conference, but we would like the Secretariat to clarify.

#### **SECRETARY**

While we are waiting for the Legal Counsel, if we still need to, I would like to clarify that in the Council Report the Council *reviewed* the Regional Conference and, given the informal nature of the Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC), we take note of the Report. You may wish also to notice in the second paragraph in the Council Report they say "*they endorse the programme and the budgetary matters*". So that will be taken to the Commission II, not here.

#### **Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

The Canadian delegation would like to intervene to support the remark that the United States of America delegation made. I will repeat the point. I think we actually just heard the Secretary speak to this, that paragraph 23 uses the phrase "*endorsed*". Certainly, welcome the views of Legal Counsel on the question that the Russian Federation asked. I will also just remind the room that we have, I guess, sovereignty over the subject as well, that if the Commission decides to choose the words it does, that is entirely appropriate.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I am told Legal Counsel is on its way because this is indeed the standoff that we have, whether it is possible or not. As you see in the draft conclusion, it has written to "*taking note*," as the Secretary just explained. But if there are other possibilities, we can of course look into that. And you are right, we could decide it collectively here. But let us wait one or two minutes, you know how big this building is.

While we are waiting, I have to compliment you because we are making quite a bit of progress this morning and we are ahead of schedule. And I wonder whether you have appetite for continuing with the Items on Committee on Agriculture (COAG) because then we will also call the colleagues in from COAG and we can speed up the proceedings a bit. So, think about that.

We may need a few minutes to prepare for that, but we could do that if you wish. And let us just, I will propose now that we do, unless there is any objection. So, I will wait for your responses if that is the case.

#### **Ms Emma HATCHER (Australia)**

I was just going to endorse your proposal to continue through our Agenda.

#### **Ms Imelda SMOLCIC NIJERS (Uruguay)**

I would like to share the view of Australia to continue the work in order to go ahead with our programme.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

You are a dedicated group. That is good and we can fill the time by more endorsements if you wish, but we could also pause for a moment until Legal Counsel arrives.

#### **Sr. Juan PRIETO GÓMEZ (España)**

La Unión Europea apoya la propuesta.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Good morning, Legal Counsel, and thank you, and sorry and apologies for letting you rush to our meeting. We are here to *endorse* or *taking note* of a Report of an informal Report of an Informal Regional Conference as it is on the screen. You have it in front of you as well.

That is the Report of the 7th Informal Regional Conference for North America (iNARC) and the proposal that we put on the screen was to *take note* of it. But the United States and Canada, as the two Member nations that attended that Conference, propose to change those wordings into "*endorse*" the

Report. And we are at a little bit of a standoff here as to whether we should take that into consideration as this was an informal Report. So maybe you can enlighten us on what we could do.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

As you have already quite correctly noted, this is an Informal Regional Conference. This Informal Regional Conference does not constitute part of the Governing Bodies of this Organization. It does not therefore formally make recommendations to the Conference, and it is in light of that, I understand, that typically the Conference has *taken note* of this Report but has not *endorsed it*.

This is also reflected in the Reports of the last Conference as well as the Verbatim Records of the last Conference. It has always been "*taking note*," of course, recognising the value of this Report, but recognising also that this Informal Conference is not part of the formal governance structure of this Organization. I hope that helps.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Canadian representative followed up by saying that it could be upon Membership to decide differently. Could you respond to that as well? Could we take that decision as a Committee?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

Of course, all matters are entirely within the hands of the Conference. I would though also note that it is these Members who actually determined the governance structure of this Organization. It is these Members who determined that this is an Informal Regional Conference and did not give it formal status.

Therefore, particularly after the IPA and the very extensive reform which took many, many years to complete its work, I think it is very important to consider that, should you wish to recommend to the Conference a departure from that status and a departure from that practice, I would, once again, urge you to consider that this is an Informal Regional Conference which is not recognized as a Governing Body. It is not therefore formally mandated to make recommendations to the Conference.

Ultimately, also I would note that you, here in this Commission, are preparing recommendations for the Conference. It will be the Conference in Plenary that will decide on your Report, and I think that is another relevant consideration in this context.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we should also note that in the, was it the Report of the Council, the budgetary and programmatic matters were endorsed. So that is, I think, a further part of the consideration. I look at the representatives of the United States and Canada, because my proposal would be to stick to the draft as we have it on screen, having heard the Legal Counsel.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

I thank you for your patience and the Members' patience as well, and absolutely thank the Legal Counsel for your views. Certainly take the note you have shared that this is the past practice, etc. I would welcome to hear the views from others in the room, if there are any who dissent from this idea. I would like to just determine if that is the case.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any further thoughts on this Item and this question? None. Can I take it that with this extra explanation from the Legal Counsel and this further consideration that the draft conclusion as it is on the screen now is acceptable to all, having heard your proposal? I will take that as a yes, and we move on to conclude Agenda Sub-Item.

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

I would also like to thank the Legal Counsel for that clarification. I would like to ask a question. There were written comments on this Agenda Item from my delegation and my delegation distanced itself from the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference.

To save time, I will not repeat the arguments. Therefore, I would ask you to make a footnote after the official nomination of the official name of the Conference, which reflects that the Russian Federation disassociates itself from the conclusions and recommendations of this Conference.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think the Legal Counsel might have an opinion on this one as well, as we are talking about taking note now, whether that would be an appropriate way to move forward with a footnote.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I understand the Russian Federation seeks to dissociate itself from the *"noting of the Report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America"*. This has been a practice that has developed over the Organization. Members may decide to dissociate themselves. This does not typically break the consensus. It is simply the expression by one Member nation that it is not part of that consensus, but is not blocking it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That I understand, I am just trying to clarify, we had an earlier Agenda Item that used the words "endorse" and we included a footnote in the conclusion that will be brought to the attention of the Conference. As this is a different kind of conclusion, I wonder whether it would be enough to take up the remark of the Russian Federation in the written correspondence as we have done with other Items.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

In this context, as the Conference *"taking note"* simply is a recognition of the existence of the Report. I would defer to you in legal terms, I do not see a difficulty with either referring to the written correspondence or inserting a footnote. I do not think this is a matter that necessarily would have a significant impact such that would slow your work down.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Then I propose that we include that footnote here, as has been done under the earlier Agenda Item, and we take the wording as you have sent it through the Written Correspondence Procedure. Okay, in order for the records to be clear, could you perhaps read your proposed footnote to us?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

On this point, we are taking note of a Report. Therefore, in the footnote, we would prefer to use the verb *"dissociate"* and not oppose, as was the case in the footnote on the Regional Conference on Europe (ERC). We understand that the Report contains many important comments, therefore we dissociate ourselves from those, but we are not opposing taking note of the Report.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We have a typist ready because we need to see it on screen for everybody to be able to accept that. And as we are taking note and your written correspondence use different wording, we should find a formulation that could capture what you just said. So, could you please dictate to us what we should do here?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation)**

*"The Russian Federation disassociates from the recommendation from the Regional Conference for North America, which have a reference for the situation in Ukraine."*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are discussing a little bit this wording because you have a specific point with the reference to the situation in Ukraine. The way it is formulated now, *"the Russian Federation dissociates from the recommendations of the Informal Regional Conference for North America, which have a reference to the situation in Ukraine"*, that would capture the whole Report.

I would suggest that we change that in specifically those that refer to the situation in Ukraine. Then you are more, so you do not dissociate from the rest of the Report, as you just said in your verbal

intervention. So, after North America, *"specifically to those that have a reference to the situation in Ukraine."* With that footnote, I will give it a second try if that is acceptable to the Russian Federation.

**Mr Vito SU (United States of America)**

Based on the Legal Counsel's rationale earlier that the Conference is not endorsing the Report, we question whether the Russian Federation can disassociate from the recommendations of the Report, given that the Conference is not endorsing the Report and only *taking note*. Second is if the Russian Federation would like to keep the mention of Ukraine in there, we would change it to *"Russian Federation's war against Ukraine"*.

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

The United States is quite right that the Conference is not going to be taking action. It is not endorsing. It is taking note, it is recognising that this text exists. To that degree, it would seem that a Member nation could choose, elect not to actually recognise that these elements of the Report exists. And, taken in that context, it would appear to me that there is no barrier to one Member nation dissociating itself from an element of this Report of which the Conference is going to take note.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Just continue along that line, and that refers to the second point made by the United States. Can a Member dissociate itself, choose its own wording, or is it two others, including something into that wording?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

To the degree that the Members are entitled to make minority statements, and this is covered in the General Rules of the Organization, it would seem to me that it would be for that Member nation to then select the wording that it would choose to apply, as recalled in the General Rules of the Organization.

I can find the specific rule if that would be helpful. But minority statements, and these are the typical form of introducing some of the minority statements in Reports, this would seem something then to be within that Member nation's authority to decide how they want to present their position.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I respectfully follow that advice by the Legal Counsel to leave the wording as it is. United States, is that acceptable to you?

**Mr Vito SU (United States of America)**

The United States would like to ask the Russian Federation to specify which paragraphs of the Report it is disassociating with.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That could indeed be a possible way out. But I do not know whether the Russian Federation has the Report ready and knows what specific paragraphs would have a reference to that situation that you refer to. Would it be possible for you to be specific here?

**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVNIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

The Report includes a number of paragraphs where the participants of the Conference comment on the situation in Ukraine. Therefore, if we need to list the paragraphs, then I will need some time in order to find the Report and to check it.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will give you time and we keep this Agenda Item pending until the beginning of the evening Session of today.

I will start the evening Session with hopefully concluding this Agenda Item with specific references to the paragraphs that you would like to dissociate yourself from. If you can, perhaps you can send them beforehand to the Secretariat already.



**Ms Dilyara RAVILOVA-BOROVIK (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)**

It seems to me that I did not quite clearly understand the question of the United States. They asked about what specific paragraphs we want to dissociate ourselves from and I was ready to provide that information. However, I did not say that I agreed to change the wording in the footnote. If the United States' question is that I should consider how to modify the text of the footnote, then for that, I would require additional consultation with Capital and it would not be possible to get that instruction by this evening.

I would once again like to draw your attention to the clarification from the Legal Counsel. This footnote begins with the words "*the Russian Federation*." Accordingly, this footnote expounds the position of my country, and the wording of this footnote is the prerogative of my delegation.

If I have understood the Legal Counsel incorrectly, then I would ask for additional clarification. Once again, I say that the footnote begins with the words "*the Russian Federation*" and not the Conference, not the Members of the Committee and not the delegation of the United States.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Legal Counsel, do you wish to respond?

**Ms Donata RUGARABAMU (Legal Counsel)**

I believe my guidance was correctly perceived. This is a minority statement by one Member nation, and it would be within the authority of that Member nation to determine its own language for its position.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I actually feel that we should not hold you much longer on this Item because this feels a little bit like a ping pong match. I will stick to the proposal to start with this in the beginning of the evening Session and try to find compromise outside of this Session so we can continue with the with the Agenda. I hope that is acceptable to the Russian Federation and the United States. Therefore, we can see whether we can, having heard the opinion that you just gave us and the Legal Counsel endorsement.

I do not conclude this Agenda Item. We will talk about this wording and how to proceed during the break and hopefully we can conclude at the beginning of the evening Session. Thank you for your patience.

- Item 12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**  
**Point 12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:**  
**Tema 12. Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Item 12.1</i>  | <i>Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18-22 July 2022)</i>            |
| <i>Point 12.1</i> | <i>Rapport de la 28<sup>e</sup> session du Comité de l'agriculture (18-22 juillet 2022)</i>    |
| <i>Tema 12.1</i>  | <i>Informe del 28.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (18-22 de julio de 2022)</i> |

**CHAIRPERSON**

We move to Item 12, the *Global Policy and Regulatory Matters arising from the Technical Committees*. Sub-Item 12.1, *Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18-22 July 2022)*, Conference C 2023/22.

Please note that the Report was adopted by Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and was reviewed by the 171st Session of the Council. The introduction of the Chairperson of the Committee on

Agriculture, Ms Julie Emond, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from Canada, has been published on the Conference webpage.

According to the written inputs we received, which have been published on the Conference website, the Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 15(g), 27(c) and (d), and 29(b) of the Report.

**Introduction to Item 12.1: Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18 to 22 July 2022)**

*Ms Julie Emond, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture*

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) held its 28th Session from 18 to 22 July 2022 and was, for the first time, conducted as a hybrid event. Of the 136 Members of the Committee, 118 registered for the Session, including nine Ministers, and a total of 778 participants registered.

The Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) was endorsed by the 171st Session of the Council (paragraph 21, [CL 171/REP](#)). The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations as submitted in document C 2023/22. The following items are brought to the attention of the Conference.

The Committee endorsed the proposed Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, which were endorsed by the 171st Session of the FAO Council.

The Committee discussed the item on agriculture and forestry linkages, presented to both COAG 28 and the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), in line with the Council's request to strengthen coordination on cross-sectoral matters and to present papers dealing with inter-related issues between agriculture and forests to both Committees. COAG recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation. In addition, the Committee invited FAO to conduct a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, and to report on progress to COAG 29.

The Committee welcomed progress in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and requested to continue consultations for the finalization of the 2024-27 Action Plan, taking into account other FAO Strategies, guidance provided by the Committee, and further developments under other instruments and bodies, including the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

As a late consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th Regular Session of the CGRFA will only be held after the Conference. Therefore, the Conference is not in a position to endorse the Commission's report. The Conference is therefore invited to consider giving a mandate to the Council at its 174th Session, to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Report of the 19th Regular Session of the CGRFA.

With a view to address water scarcity, COAG 28 recommended FAO to step up the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), to undertake an assessment of existing water tenure arrangements and to initiate a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure matters.

The Committee, acknowledging the need for improved intersectoral collaboration and governance to address plastic use throughout agrifood systems, recommended FAO to address knowledge gaps through inclusive consultations with Members and relevant stakeholders, and to develop, within its mandate, a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, taking into account the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution *End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument* (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) to be presented to COAG 29.

The Committee endorsed the new Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Action Framework 2022-2030. On the proposed institutionalization of the GSP, it recommended FAO to prepare an in-depth analysis to be submitted to the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly, and its recommendations to be provided to COAG 29.

COAG 28 commended the development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25), and requested FAO to continue open

consultation processes for refining, respectively, the action plan and the high-level framework for the development of regional action plans.

Further, COAG 28 endorsed the draft Conference Resolution for the proposal for an International Day of Potato, which is submitted for adoption by the 43rd Session of the Conference under sub-item Item 15.4, *Proposal for an International Day of the Potato*.

In conclusion, and in view of the forgoing, the Conference is invited to endorse the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, with the aforementioned additions.

***Comments from Members***  
***Commentaires des Membres***  
***Observaciones de los Miembros***

## **COLOMBIA**

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia agradece al Comité de Agricultura (COAG) por la organización de su 28° Período de Sesiones y la presentación del correspondiente informe. Colombia participó en los diversos y pertinentes debates que se dieron en el marco del período de sesiones.

Agradecemos los informes presentados durante el COAG sobre el Subcomité de Ganadería, los progresos realizados en relación con el Plan de acción de la FAO sobre la resistencia a los antimicrobianos para 2021-25, los progresos realizados en la aplicación de la Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas, y la Alianza Mundial del Suelo. Consideramos que la inclusión de estos y otros temas en la agenda permite enriquecer las discusiones del COAG y de la FAO.

Igualmente, para Colombia es de gran importancia que el COAG continúe discutiendo temas de gran trascendencia para el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, especialmente en lo relativo a salud, el vínculo entre la agricultura y las actividades forestales, la gobernanza de los recursos hídricos o el uso de plásticos en la agricultura. Consideramos que estas discusiones son importantes para avanzar hacia sistemas alimentarios sostenibles y resilientes. Nuestro Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Colombia Potencia Mundial de la Vida, propone una serie de transformaciones en el sector agrario en materia de disponibilidad, inocuidad, desarrollo de redes agrologísticas, prácticas de alimentación saludable.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America thanks FAO and its Members for their important work on the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and endorses the Report of the 28th Session of COAG and its recommendations. The report covers an impressive number of agenda items that will positively shape FAO's work in the coming years.

This includes the development of a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture. The United States recognizes that production practices and how they utilize agricultural plastics vary globally. Any voluntary code of conduct should focus on agricultural plastics and allow each country to make changes that are most environmentally, socially and economically sustainable for that country, accounting for factors such as local conditions, existing infrastructure, available technology and costs of alternatives. The scope of a code of conduct should remain with land-based agriculture, and any expansion of that scope should consult with the relevant technical bodies like the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

The United States of America commends COAG Members for highlighting the role that Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine has had on global food insecurity and stresses the important technical role of FAO in addressing the impacts of this illegal war on global food security and agrifood systems.

The United States of America reiterates our strong support for the new FAO strategies on science and innovation and climate change and encourages the rapid and full implementation of these strategies so that they can have a transformative effect on the Organization.

Finally, the United States of America emphasizes the importance of utilizing a One Health Approach to reduce the risks of animal and plant diseases and the need to keep Members informed through regular consultations in conjunction with the Quadripartite, particularly on important topics like antimicrobial resistance.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Queremos destacar la importancia de continuar promoviendo sistemas agroalimentarios eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles basados en la ciencia y pluralidad de enfoques que, por ejemplo, incorporen la biotecnología, la siembra directa y la intensificación sustentables, entre otros abordajes.

En paralelo, reiteramos la necesidad de continuar impulsado, dentro del mandato de FAO, los trabajos conjuntos en el marco del enfoque “Una Salud”, así como los programas destinados a fortalecer el Plan de Acción de Antimicrobianos del Organismo.

Con relación al desarrollo de Código de Conducta Voluntarios sobre el uso sostenible de los plásticos en la agricultura, nos gustaría recordar la necesidad de sobre pasar las lagunas técnicas y científicas de FAO previo avanzar en la elaboración de un documento. En esta línea, pensamos que el abordaje del futuro documento deberá estar limitado estrictamente por el mandato de FAO y, a la vez, evitar cualquier solapamiento con las negociaciones y debates que se están desarrollando en otras Agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

En materia del trabajo de FAO en agua, si bien es una cuestión que se abordará como tema especial, pensamos que es oportuno recordar el contenido del documento PC 133/5 Sup. 1 en donde la FAO, frente a la evaluación sobre el trabajo de la Organización en la materia, reivindicó su rol de custodio de los indicadores 6.4.1 y 6.4.2 del ODS 6 y, a la vez, en el párrafo 8 mencionó que “en el marco general de ONU-Agua, las cuestiones relativas a la calidad, impacto ecosistémico y participación en torno al agua, entre otros elementos, corresponden al mandato de otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas”.

Así, Como principio general, entendemos que es fundamental que FAO mantenga la congruencia en el abordaje de esta temática según su mandato específico y que, a partir de allí, trabaje sobre sus ventajas comparativas para impulsar la eficiencia en el uso del agua y brindar respuestas frente al estrés hídrico, por ejemplo, promoviendo sistemas de riego sostenibles o tecnologías que estimulen la conservación del agua. Creemos que esta visión deberá guiar el trabajo futuro de FAO en materia de agua.

Asimismo, queremos reconocer la creación del Subcomité de Ganadería en el marco del COAG como un paso inicial para abordar la irremplazable contribución de los sistemas ganaderos al desarrollo integral de las tres dimensiones de la sostenibilidad, económica, social y medioambiental, así como para promover las dietas saludables gracias al consumo de proteínas animales.

En especial, consideramos valiosos los siguientes mensajes acordados en la última plenaria del COAG:

- a. Reconocer la importancia de un muy necesario cambio de paradigma hacia sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles para satisfacer la creciente demanda de alimentos y, al mismo tiempo, conservar la biodiversidad y salvaguardar la tierra, el suelo y el agua a fin de lograr la seguridad alimentaria y cumplir la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.
- b. En cuanto a los factores determinantes de la deforestación y la degradación de la tierra, se solicita a la FAO y a los miembros que hagan mayor hincapié en la manera de desvincular el crecimiento de la producción agrícola de la pérdida de bosques y de otros tipos de biodiversidad, teniendo en cuenta la

necesidad de erradicar la pobreza y luchar contra el hambre, así como las necesidades de los países en desarrollo en materia de asistencia financiera y creación de capacidad.

c. Invitar a la FAO a prestar apoyo a los Miembros que lo solicitaran para determinar nuevas oportunidades y aplicar medidas dirigidas a mejorar la complementariedad entre los sectores agrícola y forestal y fortalecer las respuestas normativas coordinadas con miras al cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, y recomendó que estas iniciativas no crearan obstáculos innecesarios al comercio ni empeoraran la situación del bienestar de los pequeños productores.

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation supports the “FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31”. We highlight that food safety is a key contributor to achieving the One Health Initiative. In the context of the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the Quadripartite Partnership (FAO/World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)), we would like to draw attention to the decision of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to forcibly close the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Moscow, which worked to fight and prevent non-infectious diseases, which included providing coordination for the One Health Initiative. That rash, politically motivated decision on the part of European Union countries caused serious harm to the countries of the region that are striving to improve national food safety and health protection systems under the One Health approach. The Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 15(g), 27(c) and (d), and 29(b) of the Report. We believe that in agreeing to these paragraphs, the Committee has exceeded its own authority and FAO’s mandate in general in terms of qualifying the conflict in Ukraine.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and endorses the findings and recommendations of the Report in full.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm the following points from the Report:

First, we underscore the critical importance of sustainable livestock systems to global food security and livelihoods, and to the development of resilient agrifood systems. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Livestock as a useful platform to ensure open discussion on global livestock policy in a manner that is sciencebased, context appropriate and considerate of all dimensions of sustainability. In this current biennium, Australia was pleased to provide a voluntary contribution to the Sub-Committee to support its important programme of work.

Second, Australia emphasises the importance of the Organization continuing to focus on areas of its comparative advantage, particularly its normative and standard-setting work, including critical work to address transboundary pests and diseases. We underscore the importance of ensuring a cohesive and collaborative approach, including with stakeholders such as the private sector and consistent with the One Health approach. Australia also recognises the importance of food safety to global food security, and in this regard highlights the important role of FAO, in particular the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in underpinning the development of international science-based food safety standards, guidelines and recommendations.

Third, Australia welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, including the Action Plan for 2021-23. We reiterate the importance that the Action Plans for the Strategy are implemented in accordance with the principle of “no one size fits all.”

Fourth, Australia considers that sustainable and resilient production systems depend on a biodiverse and well-managed natural resource base, including forests. We advocate for a natural resource management approach, where farmers and land managers, as environmental stewards, have an

essential role in protecting and rehabilitating our natural resources. We emphasise that any supply chain regulations or definitions of “forest” must accommodate long-standing agricultural practices that integrate vegetation management sustainably, such as cyclical clearing and regrowth or agroforestry, to recognize these areas counting both as areas of forest and for agricultural land use.

Fifth, Australia supports the proposal for FAO, subject to availability of resources, to undertake further assessments related to distribution, benefits, trade-offs, and risks in agricultural plastics and their alternatives. We look forward to receiving an update on these activities at the 29th Session of COAG. Australia also supports the proposal for the development of a comprehensive Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture. However, we underscore the need for such a Code to be developed in close consultation with Members, from all regional groups, and other intergovernmental bodies working on plastics so as not to undermine the effectiveness of collective implementation as well as to alleviate potential confusion for agriculture industries.

Sixth, Australia supports the important role of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and Pacific Soils Partnership, in taking a multistakeholder approach to promote sustainable soil management and improve soil governance. This is of fundamental importance given the essential role of soil in providing ecosystem services that support and contribute to economic, environmental and social wellbeing, as well as food and fibre production, water storage, filtration and nutrient cycling and carbon storage. At COAG 28 and the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly, Australia acknowledged the importance of retaining the GSP in all its components and recommended a due diligence evaluation be undertaken on the financial implications of maintaining the GSP and establishing a Sub-Committee on Soils. As requested by COAG 28, we look forward to considering the in-depth analysis of the potential benefits or any shortcomings and practical implications of option 5 (establishing a Sub-Committee on Soils and maintaining the GSP in its current structure) at the upcoming 11th GSP Plenary Assembly.

We recognise the successful adoption of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy at the 170th Session of the Council and express our appreciation for the transparent and collaborative approach that characterised their development. We encourage FAO to continue its transparent and inclusive approach during the critical implementation phase of the related action plans.

Australia looks forward to contributing to a successful and forward-leaning programme of work over the coming biennium, which is fully responsive and adaptive to developments affecting global agrifood sectors and global food security trends.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom (UK) welcomes the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18-22 July 2022).

We agree with mandating the FAO Council to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Report of the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) that will only take place after the Conference. Indeed, it is important that the FAO Governing Bodies are flexible and timely in their responses. We encourage FAO follow-up to the COAG recommendation to step up the work of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG). We look forward to hearing more from FAO on progress with the assessment of existing water tenure arrangements and the establishing of a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure.

The UK would also like to draw Conference’s attention to the 3rd Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance held in Muscat, Oman, in preparation for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in 2024.

The UK welcomes FAO’s opening remarks made by the FAO Director-General at the most recent Council, where he pointed out that 70 percent of all antimicrobials sold globally are used in animal production, making the contribution of the agrifood sector in tackling AMR crucial within the One Health context. We would welcome an update and regular progress reports on the launch and

implementation of the announced global 10-year initiative to reduce the need for antimicrobials, with the provision of comprehensive support to Members in that endeavour.

Finally, we look forward to updates on the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy regional action plans and to hearing how these regional plans will also solicit and incorporate global and interregional perspectives.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 8:45*

The 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture recognized different topics that are crucial to accelerate the transformative change of food systems towards sustainability and to reach the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We would like to highlight five points that are particularly important for Switzerland:

Firstly, we would like to underline the importance of FAO's normative, science- and evidence-based competence, which should be maintained and strengthened and better connected to its programmes. We are convinced FAO's strength and added value lies in its normative and knowledge-based work.

Secondly, we welcome the call to reinforce FAO's strategic foresight, and ex-ante analysis, collaborating with relevant organizations and initiatives, and we look forward to seeing a wide dissemination of the results.

Thirdly, on biodiversity, the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework represents a landmark agreement where food systems and FAO have a leading role to play. This momentum should be seized to ensure that biodiversity for food and agriculture remain one of the central elements in this organization. We look forward to seeing this commitment reflected in the revised Action Plan as well as the Programme of Work and Budget 2024-25.

Regarding the theme of sustainable water resource management, we welcome the engagement of FAO in matters related to water tenure and governance as well as the strengthening of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture.

Finally, youth: Food systems transformation is not possible without the full and active participation of youth. Once again, Switzerland emphasizes the centrality of working not just for, but also with, youth as an indispensable agent of change. Alongside FAO's Rural Youth Action Plan, FAO should actively use the new CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

Switzerland supports the endorsement of the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the recommendations contained therein.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes the 28th Session of COAG Report, as well as the 171st Session of the Council's decisions. We appreciate all of the important work being undertaken both by and under COAG, such as work on mainstreaming biodiversity, work by the Sub-Committee on Livestock and the activities of the Global Soil Partnership.

Canada encourages FAO to fully implement the recommendations of COAG and highlights the recommendations related to addressing water scarcity, access to water resources and sustainable water management.

Canada also notes with particular interest several ongoing work items including the Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture, to be developed and presented to the 29th Session of COAG. There are many knowledge gaps that need to be filled and we welcome transparency and inclusiveness in the development of this Voluntary Code of Conduct.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand fully supports FAO's focus on linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors and supports FAO in collecting and analysing the evidence base on interdependencies between these sectors.

We fully support the importance of implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and look forward to regular updates on the progress of the Action Plan. Similarly, New Zealand fully supports the development of the Action Plan on Science and Innovation and supports a regional focus but also recognising the need for international science and innovation as well and no duplication of efforts at regional levels. We support the endorsement of the Report of COAG.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 1935*

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement. The EU and its Member States appreciate FAO's work on the new Food Safety Strategy, whilst reiterating the need for close alignment of the work with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the work of Codex Alimentarius Commission. We note that the recommendation of the COAG to submit the Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 for consideration by the 171st Session of the FAO Council through the Programme Committee is still pending, and we request Management to provide information about the delay and the new date. We also re-iterate the interest to develop a joint FAO/WHO implementation plan.

We look forward to the implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026). We reiterate the need for continued long-term efforts for a strong One Health approach, in collaboration with the Quadripartite, enhancing data integration and sharing, and including voluntary financing. We recommend that FAO strengthens the cooperation between the Quadripartite and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on plant health and reducing the risks of plant diseases.

We stress the importance of approaching the complex relationships between agriculture and forestry, especially in the context of the transition towards sustainable food systems. We look forward to the global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry. We support FAO's work in promoting soil health and preserving biodiversity for the effective transition towards sustainable and resilient agricultural value chains.

We recognize the crucial importance of addressing water scarcity in the context of achieving food security and nutrition under conditions of climate change. In this regard, we urge FAO to continue working on sustainable water management, and assessment of principles for the responsible governance of water tenure.

We reaffirm our appreciation for the First Session of COAG's Sub-Committee on Livestock, on the transition of the livestock sector to long-term sustainable and climate-friendly practices. We support, in this spirit, the development of the global assessment on the contribution of the livestock sector to the SDGs.

We stress once again the importance of implementing CODEX guidelines/standards on AMR and developing guidelines on monitoring the use of antimicrobials with the World Organisation for Animal Health, calling on Members to engage actively in it. We call upon FAO to support the implementation of good production practices and AMR management to reduce the need for and promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in food systems.

With a view to finalisation of the report on the Future of Food and Agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation (FOFA-DTT), we recommend that FAO strengthen its strategic foresight work so as to deliver on the Agenda 2030 SDGs, paying due attention to geopolitical instability and protracted crises.

Finally, we encourage FAO to continue to support the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic



pollution. We fully support the formulation of a FAO Voluntary Code of Conduct on agricultural plastics and look forward to contributing to its development and dissemination.

With these remarks, the EU and its Member States endorse the Report of the 28th Session of COAG.

## **CHILE**

*Presentado el viernes 16 de junio 2023 a las 11.09*

Chile en su calidad de Estado parte del Consejo de la FAO, ha hecho suyo los informes de los Comités que se presentan para esta Conferencia. Sobre el particular desea remitir algunos comentarios. Chile agradece el trabajo del Comité de Agricultura y del Consejo y acepta el llamado para que la Conferencia haga suyo el informe del 28.º período.

Asuntos que requieren la atención de la Conferencia

Se invita a la Conferencia a hacer suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité de Agricultura, y en particular se señala a su atención cuanto sigue:

- “Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación de la Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas y su Plan de acción para 2021-23”, párrafo 19.

Junto con destacar los avances logrados, enfatizamos la necesidad de contar con procesos transparentes e inclusivos en el desarrollo del trabajo futuro, recogiendo las prioridades y necesidades de los países en desarrollo, así como tener en consideración el Marco para la Biodiversidad posterior a 2020 que se acuerde en la próxima COP del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica, para evitar duplicidades y potenciar las sinergias y complementariedades.

- “Informe de la Alianza mundial sobre los suelos,” párrafo 24

Respecto a lo señalado, en el punto 3.6 sobre el Informe relativo a la Alianza Mundial sobre los suelos, nuestro país acoge con beneplácito y apoya la totalidad de lo indicado en el Párrafo 24. En lo principal del texto, y en consecuencia con lo informado durante el mes de junio 2022 nuestro país apoyó la recomendación de la Décima plenaria mundial en términos de acoger la propuesta y la opción de crear un Subcomité de Suelos en el marco del COAG, manteniendo el funcionamiento de la AMS.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday 16 June 2023, 11:09*

We welcome the outcomes of the comprehensive discussions on agriculture.

In order to effectively and efficiently utilize limited resources, it is imperative to prioritize activities in which FAO holds a comparative advantage. In light of this perspective, Japan welcomes the Report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council (CL 171/REP), which encourages FAO to continue to strengthen its normative and standard-setting work. We appreciated that the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) and the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 26) provided an opportunity to discuss the linkage between agriculture and forestry. We reiterate the significance of FAO's leading role to play in sustainable growth in agriculture and forestry in cooperation with international partnership on forestry such as Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF) including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), which has practical expertise in landscape approaches in the tropical regions. In this regard, we welcome paragraph 20 (h) of the Report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council (CL 171/REP).

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría*

FAO thanks Members for highlighting the importance of addressing plastics in agriculture to move towards sustainable and resilient food systems and reaffirms its commitment to continue working on this issue in line with the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture's (COAG 28) guidance. We

thank Members for their comments related to the development of a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture and take note of the comments on its scope. We confirm the emphasis on the ongoing work on sustainable management of plastics in land-based agriculture.

FAO is carrying out a transparent and inclusive consultation process with technical experts, Members and other stakeholders working on plastics, at the global and regional levels. We will ensure that the issues addressed by the Voluntary Code of Conduct will fall within FAO's mandate while complementing and integrating relevant processes taking place in other UN agencies, to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts.

FAO thanks Members for their appreciation of the importance of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock and its work, ensuring open dialogue that is science-based, context appropriate and considers all dimensions of sustainability. FAO takes this opportunity to thank Australia, France, Ireland and Switzerland for their voluntary contributions to the work of the Sub-Committee on Livestock.

We thank Members for their comments on the progress in the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 and take note of the feedback and recommendations provided in the Report of COAG 28 to further advance FAO's work on AMR following a One Health approach.

FAO will continue providing support to strengthen the implementation of international standards and guidelines on AMR, such as the Codex Alimentarius texts on AMR and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards on AMR under the terrestrial and aquatic animal codes. FAO thanks the United Kingdom for their interest in the 10-year initiative "Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms (RENOFARM)", and will engage with Members for its successful launch and regularly update on the implementation. In this context, the European Union's call to support the implementation of good production practices and AMR management to reduce the need for and promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in food systems, is well noted.

FAO thanks Members for recognizing the importance of governance of water resources and the role of water and soil for One Health as well as the joint Global Soil Partnership (GSP) endeavours in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO as a member of UN-Water also contributes collectively to achieving SDG 6 and is the custodian agency for the SDG indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2. We appreciate Argentina's points on highlighting FAO's comparative advantage in promoting sustainable irrigation technologies and overall system sustainability. We appreciate the European Union's recognition for FAO to address water scarcity in the context of achieving food security and nutrition under conditions of climate change. We will advance on the work of sustainable water management and the assessment of principles for the responsible governance of water tenure.

FAO greatly appreciates the support of Switzerland and the United Kingdom to the activities of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), and will provide a progress report on water tenure and WASAG to the next session of COAG.

FAO appreciates the support from Australia to the work of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its multistakeholder approach to sustainable soil management and governance. FAO takes note of Australia's support to retaining the GSP in all its components and of Chile's support for "option 5" (establishing a Sub-Committee on Soils and maintaining the GSP in its current structure). As requested by COAG 28, 2 FAO will provide information on the financial implications and an in-depth analysis of the potential benefits or any shortcomings and practical implications of "option 5" at the upcoming 11th GSP Plenary Assembly.

FAO takes note of the five points highlighted by Switzerland. In relation to biodiversity, the KunmingMontreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) recognizes the importance of food systems

for the achievement of its objectives, which will be reflected in FAO's work. FAO acknowledges Chile's comment on the need to consider the GBF. We will provide support to countries, upon their request, to implement the GBF as foreseen in the FAO draft Action Plan 2024–27 of its Strategy for Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

FAO thanks Members for their support to the Organization's work on the linkages between agriculture and forestry.

We appreciate the support from Members regarding the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the valuable feedback on the Action Plan, and reiterate our commitment to regularly update Members on the progress made in implementation. FAO further appreciates the support expressed for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and its implementation.

FAO would like to thank Australia for recognizing its role in safeguarding food safety in the global efforts to achieve food security, and the Russian Federation in supporting the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031. FAO remains committed to supporting the Codex Alimentarius Commission by hosting its Secretariat and through the provision of impartial, sound and effective scientific advice, and invites Australia for discussion on how additional joint efforts to further strengthen these activities may best serve Members in accelerating the goals laid out in the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

In this connection, and in relation to the European Union's comments, FAO would like to refer to the Report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council,<sup>1</sup> stating the Council's endorsement of the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031, following the recommendation of the 134th Session of the Programme Committee.

FAO would like to highlight its cross-divisional Foresight Network. Within the analytical framework set in the recently published FAO flagship report "The future of food and agriculture – Drivers and triggers for transformation", FAO is organizing strategic foresight activities in various regions and subregions, to identify context-specific transformation patterns and actions, in synergy with the UN Futures Lab and the UN Strategic Foresight Network, to address, *inter alia*, the negative impacts of instability and conflicts on agrifood systems, given that the conceptual framework highlights "Geopolitical instability and the increasing impact of conflicts" as a key driver of agrifood systems that may prevent achieving Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

FAO appreciates the comments provided by the United States of America and will continue the technical work on addressing the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security.

FAO acknowledges Switzerland's comments in reference to the Rural Youth Action Plan and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems. The active participation of youth and their empowerment as agents of change has been prioritized across a wide range of FAO's work programmes, including through strengthening organizations and networks of youth in the agrifood system; supporting the empowerment of subgroups of youth in situations of higher vulnerability; advocating for the inclusion of youth representatives in national policy dialogues and technical working groups; and by regularly engaging youth representatives in global, regional and national events organized by FAO and its partners.

Since 2021, FAO facilitates the World Food Forum (WFF), an independent global network of partners, created for and led by youth, to spark a global movement that empowers young people to actively shape agrifood systems.

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<sup>1</sup> CL 171/REP, paras. 29 (f) and 30

Furthermore, FAO is advancing its work on mainstreaming youth as a crosscutting theme in FAO's work programme under the Strategic Framework 2022-31 and by sharing selected good practices<sup>2</sup>.

## CHAIRPERSON

Before we move to conclusions, any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? The floor is open. I do not see any hands up.

Management, do you wish to respond?

## Ms Julie ÉMOND (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

I would like to commend the Chairperson and the Members for such an efficient running of Commission I. I thank all the Members who submitted written comments and input to the Report of the 28th Session, as this process led to a very smooth and short time for Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and Commission I.

## CHAIRPERSON

Sometimes we are a bit lucky, but I think this is also thanks to your excellent chairpersonship of Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

We have the draft on the screen.

Item 12.1, *Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (18-22 July 2022)*.

1. The Conference endorsed the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and mandated the Council at its 174th Session to consider for endorsement of the Report of the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

We have a footnote "*the Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 15(g), 27(c) and (d), and 29(b) of the Report*".

Is that acceptable to the Members? If so, if you are all done reading, that concludes Agenda Item 12.1. So, decided. Thank you.

<b>Item 11.6</b>	<b><i>Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022) (continued)</i></b>
<b>Point 11.6</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 7<sup>e</sup> Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (États-Unis d'Amérique, 12-14 avril 2022) (suite)</i></b>
<b>Tema 11.6</b>	<b><i>Informe de la séptima Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (Estados Unidos de América, 12-14 de abril de 2022) (continuación)</i></b>

## CHAIRPERSON

I just got a note from the United States that they are willing to accept the footnote under the previous Agenda Item as it has been on the screen. Let us put it up there for one more moment. So, just for your own records, I am jumping back to Sub-Item 11.6 and the footnote as it is here.

## Mr Vito SU (United States of America)

We can accept that.

## CHAIRPERSON

So, then this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 11.6, which also means that my earlier remarks on the beginning of the evening Session are no longer valid.

<b>Item 12.2</b>	<b><i>Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)</i></b>
<b>Point 12.2</b>	<b><i>Rapport de la 75<sup>e</sup> session du Comité des produits (13-15 juillet 2022)</i></b>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc3942en>

**Tema 12.2      Informe del 75.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (13-15 de julio de 2022)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will just continue with Sub-Item 12.2, *Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)*.

Please note that the Reports, and I refer to document C 2023/23 was adopted by and was reviewed by 171st Session of the Council. The introduction of the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), His Excellency Yaya Olaitan Olaniran, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Nigeria to FAO, has been published on the Conference webpage.

According to the written inputs we have received, which have been published on the Conference website, the Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 9(i) and (j), 11(b) and 27(d) of the Report.

**Introduction to Item 12.2: Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)**

*Ambassador Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems*

The 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) was held from 13 to 15 July 2022 in hybrid modality. The Report is submitted to the Conference under document C 2023/23.

The session covered the following four substantive areas: i) World agricultural commodity markets; ii) Policy matters; iii) Programmatic matters; and iv) Governance matters.

Under the item on “World Agricultural Commodity Markets”, the Committee expressed concerns about the soaring prices of food, energy and inputs, particularly fertilizers, and high transportation costs, resulting from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, the war in Ukraine. The Committee expressed concerns about policy measures that are inconsistent with the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and underlined the need for governments, in compliance with the WTO rules, to avoid export restrictions and other trade-distorting measures. It highlighted the importance of a freer, fairer, predictable, non-discriminatory and rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO and consistent with its rules, for promoting agricultural and rural development and contributing to achieving food security and improved nutrition for all. The Committee stressed the potential serious implications of the current challenges for food security and sustainability, and expressed concerns about the increased risk of undernourishment for vulnerable populations, especially in Net Food Importing Developing Countries (NFIC) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Under “Policy Matters”, the Committee reviewed the findings of the 2022 edition of the flagship report *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)*. The Committee underlined the role of trade in the needed transformation, as appropriate, towards more sustainable food systems and its contribution to world food security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It recognized the positive contribution of food and agricultural trade for promoting economic growth, social well-being and environmental sustainability objectives. Members underlined the need for trade policies to foster well-functioning, transparent and open global markets, especially in times of uncertainty and crisis, and emphasized the importance of improving agricultural productivity and efficiency and reducing trade costs to make trade an avenue for growth. The Committee also stressed the significance of investment in research, science and innovation and the importance of supporting developing countries. The Committee underlined the potential of regional trade agreements (RTAs), equipped with legally binding environmental provisions and well-developed institutions, to effectively address environmental externalities, and stressed that multilateral agreements can effectively address global environmental externalities. It highlighted the centrality of multilateral environmental agreements and international climate change instruments, in particular, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement.

The Committee welcomed the agriculture-related outcomes adopted by WTO Members at its 12th Ministerial Conference and underlined the significance of multilateralism. The Committee also highlighted the importance of keeping markets open and ensuring smooth trade flows, and reaffirmed the importance of not imposing export prohibitions or restrictions in a manner inconsistent with relevant WTO provisions.

Under “Programmatic Matters”, the Committee acknowledged the identified global trends and developments foreseen to influence FAO’s work in commodity markets and trade in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-25 for achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind, and endorsed the identified priorities for FAO’s work in this area. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the work conducted by the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and acknowledged its increased importance and relevance, in particular in view of the increasing risks and uncertainties to world food security.

Under “Governance matters”, the Committee endorsed the Report of the 31st Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats, hosted by Indonesia and held virtually on 4-5 March 2021 and 5 July 2022. It underlined the importance of sustainable production and trade of vegetable oils in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, in particular taking into account the latest global food crisis. The Committee also endorsed the Report of the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea, held virtually on 23 February 2022.

Under the item on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), the Committee highlighted the importance of the CCP adopting a food systems perspective in its work. It requested the Bureau to reflect on the need to review the name of the Committee and its harmonization in the different UN official languages, taking into account recent situational changes such as the growing focus on the positive contributions by commodity markets and trade. Furthermore, the Committee considered and approved the MYPOW for 2022-24.

The Committee elected the new CCP Bureau. I had the honour to be elected Chairperson. The other elected members are Argentina, Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Mauritania and the United States of America.

I am pleased to present to you the Report of the 75th Session of the CCP for endorsement and any guidance you may wish to provide.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## **COLOMBIA**

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Agradecemos la presentación del informe del 75° Periodo de Sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos y tomamos nota de sus principales conclusiones.

Colombia participó en las reuniones del Comité y agradece particularmente a la FAO por su trabajo de brindar información actualizada y útil sobre los mercados internacionales de productos agrícolas, sobre las negociaciones agrícolas en la Organización Mundial del Comercio y sobre las perspectivas agrícolas a medio plazo. Reiteramos la importancia de la transparencia en los mercados y la necesidad de contar con esta información de manera oportuna y actualizada para optimizar la toma de decisiones.

Igualmente, agradecemos a la FAO por la publicación de El estado de los mercados de productos básicos agrícolas (SOCO) durante 2022 y que fue presentado durante el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, como un importante insumo para conocer el estado de los mercados de productos básicos agrícolas y sus repercusiones en las problemáticas globales actuales.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America welcomes the continued focus of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) on factual analysis and endorses the Report of the 75th Session of the CCP.

The report makes clear that trade, along with efficient and enhanced productivity and sustainable food systems, plays a vital role in improving global food security in all its dimensions. The United States of America concurs with this conclusion and supports further work in the CCP to highlight the positive contributions of trade and sustainable productivity growth to food security.

The United States of America strongly supports FAO's work on data and transparency, including on commodity outlooks as well as FAO's leadership in the area of food price monitoring and analysis through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). As emphasized in the CCP Report, FAO has vital role to perform in monitoring and analyzing the negative impacts of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine on global food security.

The United States of America urges our fellow Members to commit to open and transparent sharing of market data to improve global coordination. Increased transparency, predictable policies and robust information systems are needed to increase market reliability.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Como lo hemos indicado en otras instancias, la Argentina entiende que el punto nodal del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos radica en su rol clave para promover, transparentar y agilizar el comercio internacional en los mercados alimentarios y agrícolas. Sobre este punto, consideramos que existe aún un enorme potencial de trabajo que FAO puede realizar para, por ejemplo, enriquecer discusiones en un contexto de crisis superpuestas de diversa naturaleza.

En este sentido, como lo hemos indicado en el Consejo 171° de FAO, nos gustaría hacer énfasis en los siguientes puntos:

La Argentina valora que la FAO haya reconocido que el comercio, junto con una productividad eficiente, mejorada y sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, desempeñan una función esencial en la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria mundial en todas sus dimensiones, a la vez que promueve el desarrollo agrícola y rural.

Nuestro país celebra que se haya destacado la importancia de contar con un comercio agrícola más transparente, en el marco de un sistema multilateral de comercio basado en reglas, más libre y más justo, predecible y no discriminatorio, al amparo de la OMC y sus reglas.

Apreciamos el papel positivo desempeñado por el Sistema de información sobre el Mercado Agrícola (AMIS) y sus miembros, en el monitoreo de los mercados, la mejora hacia una mayor transparencia en los mercados agrícolas, y las posibles acciones que pueden compartirse en materia de políticas.

A futuro, esperamos contar con más evaluaciones de productos básicos y perspectivas de mercado basadas en datos, así como también aspiramos a que se continúe estrechando la colaboración con OMC, a fin de fundamentar más y mejores debates sobre políticas entre los miembros.

Finalmente, nos gustaría que la Mesa del comité presente en la próxima sesión una informa detallado sobre la posibilidad de modificar el nombre del Comité a efectos que de cuenta con un título positivo que demuestre todas las contribuciones del comercio de productos agrícolas a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, y no solo los "problemas".

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation draws attention to the fact that the sharp rise in global food and agricultural commodity prices in March 2022 was a consequence of the sanctions unilaterally imposed against

Russia by the United States of America, European Union countries and their Western henchmen, in violation of the UN Charter and international trade rules. Russia is one of the world's largest exporters of food, agricultural commodities and fertilizers. We emphasize that Russia opposes the implementation of policies that are incompatible with WTO principles and create a trade imbalance. Additionally, we draw attention to the lack of progress in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the Russian Federation on the promotion of Russian food products and fertilizers on global markets as of 22 July 2022, which presents a risk for the stability of global markets. Countries of the Global South are being held hostage in this scenario.

The Russian Federation supports the institutionalization of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). As one of the first countries to support the creation of the GSP, Russia has allocated a total of over USD 8 million from the government and private sector to support its activities. As a result, a global network of over 700 soil laboratories has been established in 150 countries, most of which are part of the Global South, which faces more challenges than other countries when it comes to soil conservation, remediation and sustainable use. In recent years, Russia has supported the GSP's implementation of integrated solutions to soil contamination problems, including heavy metals, as well as soil organic carbon management and sequestration, which contributes to the fight against climate change (RECISOIL programme).

The Russian Federation also supports the promotion of soil research, and notably was a sponsor of the FAO World Soil Prize, which is named after Russian soil scientist Konstantin Dmitrievich Glinka. Since 2016, researchers from Argentina, China, Colombia, Congo and other countries have been awarded the prize. The Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 9 (i) and (j), 11 (d), and 27 (d) of the report, as we believe that in agreeing to them, the Committee has exceeded its own authority and FAO's mandate in general in terms of qualifying the conflict in Ukraine.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), and we are pleased to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Report of the 75th Session in full. A free, fair, predictable and non-discriminatory, rules-based trading system is vital for achieving global food security and improved nutrition for all. We take this opportunity to again commend FAO for its consistent science- and evidence-based advocacy for open markets and well-functioning supply chains, including through provision of monitoring, analysis and policy advice. The work of FAO and the CCP has been instrumental in guiding FAO's response to recent pressures on global supply chains – COVID-19 and Russia's invasion of Ukraine being two of the most prominent – and keeping markets fully informed, able to respond quickly to shocks, and avoiding counterproductive policy measures that impede trade. In this regard, we highlight the important work of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). Australia is a strong supporter of AMIS and was pleased to provide a further voluntary contribution of AUD 250 000 to support its critical work in responding to the current global food security situation, building on our contribution of AUD 300 000 in 2021.

As we consider all challenges ahead, Australia is committed to free and open trade as a key driver for improved food security and more resilient agrifood systems. International trade can help to overcome volatilities in food production caused by climate change, natural disasters, water availability, conflict and other supply side shocks. Market and food security information and analysis products are a core strength of FAO as a global reference point on agriculture and food security, and must be maintained. In this regard, we welcome the preparation and distribution of the flagship publication the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) as a definitive global source of information and analysis for policy makers.

We welcome FAO's continued commitment to providing its Members with advice, capacity building, analysis and information about agricultural markets. This helps increase understanding of the importance of trade for food security, nutrition and agricultural growth while promoting enhanced agricultural investment and productivity improvements. In light of the most recent State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report in 2022, which calls for repurposing food and



agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable, we strongly support deepening analytical work on the linkages between trade and sustainability and trade and healthy diets. This will be particularly important to solving the unique challenges in regions such as the Southwest Pacific, including combatting noncommunicable diseases.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023. 8:45*

The current challenges that food systems face all over the world— such as conflicts, a growing global population, migration and urbanization, climate change, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity – make the transformation towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems essential.

Switzerland recognizes the global need to accelerate the transformation towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems, and the role of food and agricultural trade in this endeavor.

Therefore, Switzerland welcomes that the Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (document C 2023/23) and recognizes the important role of trade in sustainable food systems transformation to ensure food security and nutrition in the long term.

In that sense, Switzerland welcomes and supports FAO's work and efforts to deepen its analytical work on the linkages between trade and sustainability and trade and nutrition. This will assist countries in their evidence-based promotion of sustainable food systems transformation, including through trade policies.

The above-mentioned challenges as well as the growing uncertainty due to shocks and conflicts make comparative ex ante risk analyses essential for sound decision-making. Therefore, Switzerland appreciates FAO's efforts to enhance its capacity for ex-ante risk analysis and risk assessment and encourages FAO to intensify these works in coherence with other stakeholders.

Switzerland appreciates that FAO organised the first topical inter-sessional event on the important issue of repurposing of agriculture policies and support that took place after the 75th Session of the CCP. We encourage FAO to actively collaborate with other stakeholders (e.g. the World Bank, OECD, etc.) to make discussions even more useful and interconnected with similar discussions in other fora.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes the CCP's Report, as well as the decisions of the 171st Session of the Council. Canada would also like to echo the CCP in highlighting the importance of free, fair, predictable, non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trade, under and consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, for working towards global food security and sustainable food systems.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand would like to comment on the importance of the combined work of FAO and the WTO and in particular the important role that trade has in the transformation, as appropriate, towards more sustainable food systems. We fully support paragraph 15(e) of the Report and the need for FAO to maintain and strengthen cooperation with the WTO. Finally, New Zealand fully supports the text of section II of the CCP Report on World Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), and in particular the importance of compliance with WTO rules to avoid export restrictions and other trade distorting measures. We also reiterate concerns made in paragraph 9(i) regarding the soaring prices of food, energy and inputs and the heightened concerns regarding world food security and New Zealand restates its position regarding the negative impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and calls on Russia to end this war. We support the endorsement of the Report of the CCP.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to address you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States (MS). Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, San Marino, Serbia, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its MS would like to acknowledge the quality and relevance of FAO's monitoring of commodity market developments and welcome the information provided on commodity market issues and problems, which contributes to an open, transparent and fair-trading system for all.

We would like to reiterate our appreciation for the work performed by FAO on the flagship report on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets and state that we value the role of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook and the long-term projections, including foresight. We encourage FAO to continue and strengthen its cooperation with all relevant UN agencies and other international organizations, including the development of the work on OECD-FAO Guidance on responsible agriculture supply chains, in order to further analyse market developments and the transition to sustainable food systems.

Taking into account the existing uncertainties on the global market due to, inter alia, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the growing pressure on the farming community related to climate change and biodiversity concerns, the EU and its MS emphasize the significance of continuously monitoring the effects of these challenges, including by conducting scenario and sensitivity analyses. As guidance for FAO's future work, we suggest considering scenarios that can contribute to the monitoring and assessment of food security and nutrition challenges and taking a comprehensive food systems perspective in relation to the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up and in anticipation of the Stocktaking Moment.

The EU and its MS express their appreciation for FAO Secretariat's detailed update on the beneficial role of food and agricultural trade, as well as regional trade agreements. It is essential to emphasize the role of an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system established under the World Trade Organization (WTO). We strongly believe that such a trading system would support the transition towards sustainable food systems and enhance food security and nutrition for all, including with integrated regional approaches, making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In relation to the guidance provided on FAO's programme of work concerning commodity markets and trade within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, we would like to highlight the Committee's support in acknowledging the role of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) and of the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS). We further encourage Members to continue their support for these initiatives and the important work they accomplish.

With these comments, the EU and its MS hereby endorse the report of the 75th session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday 16 June 2023, 13:02*

We underscore the importance that FAO focuses on the areas in which FAO has comparative advantages and the needs identified in the on-going global food crisis, while avoiding duplication of work by other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

With the aim to ensure market transparency and promote informed decision-making, it is important to collect and analyse data and information in a just, objective and timely manner. In this regard, we welcome the report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council that acknowledges the positive role of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

This year's G7 Hiroshima Summit under the Japanese presidency issued the Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security where we committed to strengthening AMIS by supporting G20 efforts to broaden its coverage to include fertilizer and vegetable oils, as well as improving data provision including on stocks. We also hope that the FAO's new modelling project, in synergy with AMIS, will further enhance transparency in global agricultural markets in the future.

We also welcome the development of guidelines to help developing countries increase the resilience of their agricultural supply chains as referred to in document CCP 22/6. Japan has financially supported this FAO project. The recently completed and released Guidelines, unveiled in May of this year, are geared towards the governments in developing states and development agencies to assist them in formulating policies to strengthen the resilience of agriculture against the external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. We encourage FAO to work on disseminating these Guidelines.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO thanks Members for their feedback and comments and expresses its appreciation for the wide support to the Organization's work under the mandate of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

The Secretariat takes note of the comments made by Colombia and expresses its appreciation for the positive feedback with regard to FAO's work on market transparency and trade. FAO shares Colombia's view that timely and up-to-date information is essential to optimize decision-making and is making every effort to provide Members with accurate and impartial information in a timely manner.

With regard to the comments provided by the United States of America, FAO recognizes the important role that trade and sustainable productivity and agrifood systems can play in improving food security globally. Moreover, FAO appreciates the strong support for its work on market transparency, namely under the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). In this regard, the Secretariat notes the planned expansion of the work of AMIS in analysing the fertilizer and vegetable oil markets. FAO supports the call to Members to commit to open and transparent sharing of market data to improve global coordination.

The Secretariat takes note of the comments made by Argentina and expresses its appreciation for the positive feedback on the role of FAO and AMIS. FAO shares Argentina's views on the significant role that trade can play in improving global food security, and on the importance of a trading system that is consistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s rules. The Secretariat would like to note that there are discussions between FAO and the WTO with the objective to agree on a Memorandum of Understanding that will strengthen the existing collaboration between the two organizations, in line with their respective mandates. With regard to the name of the Committee, the Secretariat would like to inform that discussions have started by the Bureau, as mandated by the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCP, and it is expected that a report will be presented to the next session of the Committee.

The Secretariat takes note of the comments provided by the Russian Federation, and expresses its appreciation for the support to the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the promotion of soil research and the Glinka World Soil Prize. FAO takes note that the Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 9 (i) and (j), 11 (d), and 27 (d) of the Report of the 75th Session of the CCP.

The Secretariat notes Australia's comments and expresses its gratitude for the strong support to FAO's efforts to provide up-to-date and objective information on markets, monitoring policy developments, promoting dialogue and proposing policy recommendations. The support of Australia to the flagship publication *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) as a definitive global source of information and analysis for policy makers is also noted with appreciation. The next edition of SOCO, to be published in 2024, will cover the theme of trade and nutrition. FAO also wishes to thank Australia and express its appreciation for the additional funding provided to AMIS, which should help to strengthen the initiative and ensure its sustainability. With regard to the comment on repurposing food and agricultural policies, it may be noted that a CCP international event on "Repurposing agricultural support to transform agrifood policies" was organized on 1 June 2023. It may also be noted that the next edition of SOCO will be on trade and its linkages with nutrition and healthy diets.

The Secretariat shares Switzerland's comments with regard to the challenges faced by agrifood systems across the globe and agrees on the important role that trade can play in supporting sustainable

agrifood systems transformation to ensure food security and nutrition in the long term. FAO also expresses its gratitude for the support expressed by Switzerland to the work and efforts to deepen the Organization's analytical work on the linkages between trade and sustainability and trade and nutrition. In this regard, it may be noted that FAO is taking steps to increase the capacity of the Aglink-Cosimo modelling framework. For instance, the 2023 edition of the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook* includes an analysis on the utilization and application of fertilizers as well as on food loss and waste. FAO is also working on the inclusion in the model of assessments of livestock productivity and feed use. In addition, the Secretariat notes the discussions in the context of the CCP Bureau on the organization of relevant and topical CCP intersessional events, as mandated by the Committee at its 75th Session in July 2022.

The Secretariat also takes note of the comments provided by Canada and shares the view that a trading system that is consistent with the rules of the WTO can contribute to ending hunger and achieving global food security.

With regard to the comments made by New Zealand, the Secretariat expresses its gratitude for the support to FAO's work and wishes to highlight the good collaboration between FAO and the WTO in the field of agricultural trade, within their respective mandates.

FAO express its gratitude for the strong support provided by the European Union with regard to market transparency and the provision of timely and up-to-date information, and shares the views expressed on the significance of trade for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO would like to note the continuing good collaboration between FAO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), not only on the preparation of the annual OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook, but also with respect to the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains. In this regard, FAO will prepare briefs and training materials on responsible investment and business conduct, risk-based due diligence, and Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) risk management in agricultural supply chains. Moreover, FAO will continue to facilitate, jointly with the OECD, the OECDFAO multi-stakeholder advisory group on responsible agricultural supply chains. FAO agrees with the European Union on the important role of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) and AMIS and the need for continued support by the Members to these initiatives.

Finally, with regard to the comments provided by Japan, the Secretariat agrees on the distinct mandates between FAO and the WTO, and reiterates the excellent collaboration between the two organizations. FAO expresses its gratitude for the additional funding provided by the Government of Japan to AMIS, as well as with regard to the work undertaken for the development of the "Guidelines to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains". The financial contribution to AMIS is essential for the strengthening and expanding of its monitoring work and for improving the analytical capacities of the initiative. It may be noted that while the *Guidelines to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains* are already available on the FAO website (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CC5481EN>), FAO is developing a dedicated webpage with the objective to increase visibility and facilitate dissemination of the guidelines. The dedicated webpage should be ready and launched soon.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, any Members wish to make further comments under this Item

#### **Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

The Canadian delegation supports the Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We are not seeking any revisions. We would just like to register if this is appropriate for the Committee in discussion here. We would just like to register our interest, or the Canadian Government's interest, in the renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative to ensure the continuing supply of food and agricultural supplies for people around the world.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I look at the Chair or Management, whether you have anything to add to what you have submitted already online.

**His Excellency Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)**

There is nothing new to add except that it is a continuous review and tackling of problems that have to do with commodities. I really want to appreciate all of you for accepting the Report. However, more importantly, I want to thank the Secretariat for the wealth of experience they have brought into this and their commitment to say that we will do our best in the circumstance that is emerging on a daily basis.

**Mr Boubaker Ben BELHASSEN (Director, Markets and Trade Division)**

I would like also to join my voice to the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) to thank all the Members for their feedback to the *Report of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems* that took place in July 2022. We look forward to the continued, I hope, interesting work conducted by the Committee and conducted by FAO under the mandate of the Committee, and we count on continued support. And so, for that we hope also we meet your expectations in that regard.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can now move on to the draft conclusions. I will read those for you.

**Item 12.2 *Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)***

1. The Conference endorsed the *Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)*.

It contains a footnote, which reads as follows, "*The Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 9(i) and (j), 11(b) and 27(d) of the Report*".

Members, is that conclusion acceptable to you? I do not see any flags up. That means that we can conclude this Agenda Sub-Item 12.2. Thank you.

Since we are going at such a speed, we could actually take Items from the next Session already. However, we do not have all people present that could help us with that. Therefore, we will rearrange the Agenda a little bit and add Committee on Fisheries (COFI) to the beginning of tonight's Session.

We will adjourn for this moment. I thank you all for your cooperation this morning and I hope we can keep up the spirit and really finish ahead of schedule. That is my good wish and intention.

Look forward to seeing you here at 17:00 hours and hopefully on time because we need that quorum to continue and then we proceed.

***The meeting rose at 11:58 hours***

***La séance est levée à 11 h 58***

***Se levanta la sesión a las 11.58***



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

<p><b>Forty-third Session</b> <b>Quarante-troisième session</b> <b>43.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 1-7 July 2023</b> <b>Rome, 1-7 juillet 2023</b> <b>Rome, 1-7 de julio de 2023</b></p>
<p><b>SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I</b> <b>DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I</b> <b>SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b></p>
<p><b>3 July 2023</b></p>

The Second Meeting was opened at 17:09 hours  
Mr Marcel Beukeboom,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 17 h 09  
sous la présidence de M Marcel Beukeboom,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 17.09  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Marcel Beukeboom,  
Presidente de la Comisión I

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<b>Item 12.</b>	<b>Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from: (<i>continued</i>)</b>
<b>Point 12.</b>	<b>Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants: (<i>suite</i>)</b>
<b>Tema 12.</b>	<b>Asuntos mundiales relacionados con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes: (<i>continuación</i>)</b>
<i>Item 12.3</i>	<i>Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)</i>
<i>Point 12.3</i>	<i>Rapport de la 35<sup>e</sup> session du Comité des pêches (5-9 septembre 2022)</i>
<i>Tema 12.3</i>	<i>Informe del 35.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (5-9 de septiembre de 2022)</i>

## CHAIRPERSON

I would just like to continue where we left it this morning, at Sub-Item 12.3. I will try to make it as smoothly as it was this morning. The third Sub-Item, that is Sub-Item 12.3, *Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)*, document C 2023/24. Please note that the Report was adopted by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and was reviewed by the 171st Session of the Council.

The introduction of the Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries, Mr Shingo Ota from Japan, has been published on the Conference web page.

### **Introduction to Item 12.3: Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)**

*Mr Shingo Ota, Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries*

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its 35th Session from 5 to 9 September 2022. The session was convened in a hybrid modality on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent in light of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, following consultation with the COFI Bureau.

The session was attended by 99 Members of the Committee, observers from 21 other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See and Palestine, representatives from eight specialized agencies of the United Nations, 44 intergovernmental organizations and 51 international non-governmental organizations.

The Report of the 35th Session of COFI is submitted to the Conference in document C 2023/24.

Significant outcomes of the Committee included:

- a) endorsement of a new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management;
- b) endorsement of the new FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment;
- c) support for Blue Transformation and for making it the focus of a very well received State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2022 report;
- d) appreciation for FAO's work and strong support for FAO's Biodiversity, Climate Change and Science and Innovation Strategies and associated action plans;
- e) recognition of the importance of fisheries and aquaculture to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and numerous requests to boost FAO's role in international fora;
- f) continued emphasis on small-scale fisheries (SSF) throughout the meeting and report, including the activities related to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) and recommendation for a SSF summit to be conducted biennially before COFI;
- g) strong support for global aquaculture development alongside the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture, recommended to be finalized before the 12th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;

- h) noted the importance of the new World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and FAO's key role in providing technical assistance to the WTO secretariat and to Members for its implementation; and
- i) strong commitment to Regional Fisheries Advisory Bodies (RFABs)/Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), particularly on their critical role of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, and on their importance to the WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies.

The Conference is invited to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Committee, and attention is drawn to global policy and regulatory matters, in particular to:

- a) progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments: paragraphs 11 j)-m);
- b) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: paragraphs 12) a)-j)
- c) supporting small-scale and artisanal fisheries, including in the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA): paragraphs 13 a)-h);
- d) combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing: paragraphs 14 a)-r);
- e) enhancing COFI discussion, including recommendations of the Working Group on the Proposal of the Establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, including modalities of operations and the offer of funding: paragraphs 15 a)-g);
- f) addressing climate change in fisheries and aquaculture: reporting on progress and Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031: paragraphs 16 a)-h);
- g) mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture: paragraphs 17 a)-j); and
- h) developments in global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture: paragraphs 18 a)-l).

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Agradecemos la presentación del informe del 35° Periodo de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca (COFI) y tomamos nota de sus principales conclusiones.

Apreciamos la labor de la FAO y del COFI en sus estrategias sobre biodiversidad, cambio climático y ciencia e innovación, así como, especialmente, la publicación del informe El estado mundial de la pesca y la acuicultura (SOFIA) para 2022. Este informe, además de presentar un completo panorama de las tendencias mundiales de la pesca y la acuicultura, está particularmente enfocado en la relación entre estas actividades y el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. En ese sentido, Colombia agradece la publicación del informe y reitera que este tipo de publicaciones son de gran utilidad.

Finalmente, Colombia quisiera destacar la importancia señalada en el informe acerca del nuevo Acuerdo sobre Subvenciones a la Pesca de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC). En este sentido, Colombia, en su compromiso de promover la sostenibilidad de la pesca, como Potencia Mundial de la vida, reitera su voluntad para ratificar y aplicar prontamente el acuerdo y manifiesta su interés de seguir trabajando conjuntamente para avanzar en la negociación de los asuntos pendientes y para seguir contribuyendo a que todos, en el presente y especialmente en el futuro, accedamos a los recursos marinos de manera sostenible y en igualdad de condiciones.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America fully endorses the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Report and welcomes its focus on the vital importance of both fisheries and aquaculture, and particularly the small-scale sector, for global food and nutrition security.

The United States of America welcomes the establishment of a COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, which will help ensure that COFI remains the leading global forum for advancing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and looks forward to its endorsement at the 43rd Session of the Conference. We also welcome the Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment as an essential new tool in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Nos gustaría, en primer lugar, resaltar el papel y los aportes de FAO en materia de pesca y acuicultura sostenible, ya que se trata de un sector que contribuye enormemente a la seguridad alimentaria mundial y a la nutrición que, además, cuenta con un enorme potencial para alcanzar la meta del hambre cero.

En esta idea, como lo hemos manifestado en la sesión plenaria previa de COFI, la Argentina apoya y da la bienvenida al Subcomité de Ordenación Pesquera y alentamos a que su estructura sea inclusiva y garantice la participación de los países en desarrollo.

Igualmente, nos gustaría reiterar nuestra intención de que se actualicen los indicadores del ODS 14 que custodia FAO, así como sus metodologías, a efectos que permitan capturar y evaluar de forma más fehaciente la realidad de los países vis-à-vis sus abordajes sostenibles en materia de pesca y acuicultura.

Conforme lo ratificado por el 172º Consejo de FAO, se destaca la importancia de la “Transformación azul” como esfera programática prioritaria (EPP) y plan que traduce la visión de la FAO sobre su labor para lograr sistemas acuáticos sostenibles.

Por último, nos gustaría saludar el trabajo de IYAFA en el “Año de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanal” en cuyo contexto se han realizado múltiples eventos para apoyar a los pescadores y acuicultores, visibilizando su actividad y promoviendo una integración más dinámica a las cadenas globales de valor.

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation takes a positive view of FAO’s work to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Our country works systematically to bring national legislation in line with the requirements of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA), which was ratified by Russia in December 2020.

Since 21 May 2023, the Federal Agency for Fisheries has been designated as the body acting as the Russian Federation’s coordination centre for exchanging information as part of the PSMA’s implementation. We support the decision to establish a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM). We are confident that the SCFM will alleviate the work of future sessions of COFI, which for objective reasons are unable to give the appropriate attention to current problems pertaining to fisheries.

## **MEXICO**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 17.49*

México aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar su compromiso en favor de la pesca y la acuicultura sostenibles, y para señalar la importancia del acompañamiento técnico de la FAO para avanzar en la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS) desde estos sectores. Así, mientras resulta fundamental procurar una pesca más sostenible que, a través de una mejor gestión e innovación tecnológica, responda al reto de reducir la pobreza y eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo, también es importante continuar avanzando en generar un mayor conocimiento y aprovechamiento del enorme potencial que ofrece la acuicultura.

En estos esfuerzos, el “Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable” sigue ofreciendo el marco necesario, para que, en el ámbito de las iniciativas nacionales e internacionales, se asegure un aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos acuáticos vivos, en consonancia con el medio ambiente. De ahí que México se suma al llamado para que la FAO siga apoyando a los Miembros en la aplicación de este Código y de los instrumentos conexos, así como en la elaboración de orientaciones estratégicas, en particular mediante la elaboración de directrices técnicas adicionales que contribuyan a fortalecer los planteamientos del Código de Conducta.

Al mismo tiempo, es importante que los miembros sigan apoyando la instrumentación de dicho código a través de sus respuestas al cuestionario de seguimiento, y que se siga reconociendo a las personas e instituciones que, con su trabajo, vienen realizando una contribución notable a su aplicación. En ese sentido, la “Medalla Margarita Lizárraga” ofrece un canal ideal para seguir inspirando acciones concretas y un mayor compromiso en torno al Código de Conducta.

La vigencia y la aplicación del “Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable” ha sido también una referencia para el desarrollo de unas directrices que apoyen el desarrollo sostenible de la acuicultura para satisfacer la demanda presente y futura de alimentos. En este contexto, México reconoce el proceso y el trabajo de los miembros que permitió la aprobación de las “Directrices de la FAO para la acuicultura sostenible” en el marco de la 12ª sesión del Subcomité de Acuicultura, que se realizó en Hermosillo, México, en mayo pasado.

Las Directrices, que serán puestas a consideración del Comité de Pesca en su siguiente periodo de sesiones, brindan dirección clara para el desarrollo de la acuicultura sostenible y para identificar las acciones concretas que deben implementarse para que la acuicultura contribuya mejor a la seguridad alimentaria, el alivio de la pobreza, la preservación de los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad, y las metas más amplias de la Agenda 2030.

El compromiso de México con el desarrollo de la acuicultura sostenible también se refleja en acciones de cooperación a través, por ejemplo, de la “Iniciativa Caribe Resiliente”. Uno de los cuatro componentes de esta iniciativa está orientado a impulsar la acuicultura resiliente para contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y el bienestar en el Caribe, con proyectos concretos en Dominica, Granada, San Cristóbal y Nieves, Trinidad y Tobago. México seguirá trabajando mano de la mano con la FAO en la promoción de esta actividad.

Al mismo tiempo, debemos seguir trabajando para la plena aceptación de todos los productos acuícolas entre los consumidores y en los mercados, en función de su sostenibilidad y de sus beneficios para la preservación de los ecosistemas y la biodiversidad.

Por otra parte, México ha expresado en diferentes en diferentes ocasiones su compromiso con la lucha en contra de la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada (INDR). En ese sentido, es un honor informar a la Conferencia que México concluyó su proceso interno que permitió la aprobación del “Acuerdo de Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada” por parte del Senado el pasado 1 de marzo. El depósito del instrumento de adhesión de México al AMERP se efectuó el 23 de mayo ante el Director General de la FAO e iniciará su vigencia para el país el 22 de junio de 2023.

México agradece el apoyo de la FAO en este proceso y solicita su acompañamiento técnico en esta nueva etapa, como Estado Parte del AMERP, para continuar los esfuerzos contra el flagelo que representa la pesca INDR, de la mano de la comunidad internacional.

Finalmente, México alienta a la FAO a aumentar los conocimientos y la concientización sobre los efectos del cambio climático en la pesca y la acuicultura, y a brindar orientación en materia de

adaptación y mitigación a los miembros, destacando la necesidad de disponer de orientación sobre ordenación pesquera resiliente al clima, y la invita a seguir brindando apoyo técnico que contribuya a la conservación de la biodiversidad en la práctica de la pesca y la acuicultura. Con estos comentarios México hace suyo el informe del 35º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Pesca de la FAO.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia remains strongly supportive of the work of COFI as it provides a unique opportunity to advance truly global initiatives to improve the sustainability of the world's fisheries. We sincerely appreciate the Secretariat's efforts in organizing the 35th Session and endorse the findings and recommendations of the Report in full.

We would like to highlight a few of the key achievements of COFI, brought about through the cooperation of Members. These include the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), which recently held its Fourth Meeting of the Parties; the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

In addition, Australia continues to see Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as a significant maritime challenge facing our region. We acknowledge FAO's continued efforts and encourage collaboration among Members to enhance their domestic and regional efforts to combat IUU fishing. Australia continues to take an active and collaborative role in regional and international fora to develop and implement conservation and management measures to combat IUU fishing. Australia understands the difficulty in quantifying the amount of IUU fishing, supports the precautionary approach, and calls for all FAO Members to generate political will to combat the problem. Australia supports endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, noting that while transshipping is effectively regulated in Australian waters, we support improved monitoring of high seas transshipping.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank Members for their efforts to establish the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM), and particularly for ensuring developing states have a mechanism to attend the SCFM. Australia can support the establishment of the SCFM on a trial basis and welcomes the review process to take place by the 38th Session of COFI.

Australia welcomes the many FAO climate change adaptation field projects that have supported countries and communities to better understand, respond to and cope with climate change impacts. The Australian Government is increasingly looking to further develop its domestic policy, science and fisheries management frameworks through research that helps to assess the impacts of climate threats on fisheries and aquaculture to ensure a sustainable industry. Australia is pleased to see work on the mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity in cross-sectoral policies, where appropriate to national circumstances and other international obligations (particularly relating to trade). We reiterate the importance of international cooperation in this area and draw attention to efforts to align FAO strategies with other international agreements, particularly with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as a means to reduce duplication of efforts.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom welcomes the Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the significant outcomes as highlighted in the introduction, including the endorsement of the new FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. The guidelines need to be reflected within international and domestic frameworks and we urge Members to work together in their implementation.

The UK welcomes the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report. We believe that FAO can amplify the key messages from the SOFIA Report to ensure they reach a wider audience, including parties to key conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We also strongly encourage Members to actively engage with regional fisheries bodies. We would like to see all parties coming to the table with ideas and solutions, engaging effectively in these vital forums.

The UK agrees that the new World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on fisheries subsidies is a critical step towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 14.6. By the next ministerial Conference, we hope that more Member States can ratify the agreement so that the agreed disciplines can be entered into force.

The UK was pleased to endorse the proposal for the new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management of COFI and to announce UK funding to support the Sub-Committee's work. We agree on the recommendations in the paper. The new Sub-Committee will be an important forum to discuss and identify solutions to fisheries management challenges of relevance to both small and large-scale fisheries. It will also provide an opportunity to share best practices and learn from experiences at national, regional and global levels to address current and future challenges.

On mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries and aquaculture, we would be interested in hearing from FAO the timing for receiving FAO's policy guidance on mainstreaming climate change and developing climate-smart management plans. The UK endorses the findings and recommendations of the Committee, underscoring the particular importance of progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments; and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Finally, the UK supports the FAO's Blue Transformation Initiative as a means towards ensuring the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and their contribution to fighting hunger and poverty. We look forward to receiving FAO's progress updates.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Report, as well as the decisions of the 171st Session of the Council.

Canada recognizes the critical importance of sustainable and responsible fisheries management and aquaculture across the world's oceans in order to ensure global food security, to support the livelihoods of fishers and coastal communities, and to advance sustainable development.

Canada commends the significant steps taken to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and welcomes the endorsement to establish a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, allowing Members to discuss the wide range of complex issues that arise in fisheries management.

In line with the broadening global ocean conservation agenda, Canada would also like to stress the importance of marine ecosystems and biodiversity to fisheries and aquaculture, as well as the need to take into account climate change in order to build climate-resilient fisheries, aquaculture and communities.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand is an active member of the COFI Bureau. We wish to fully support the establishment of the new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. This is a significant decision and an initiative we fully support. We also support the endorsement of the Report and recommendations of COFI.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Report of the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in which the EU and its Member States actively participated. We particularly welcome the endorsement of the new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. Furthermore, we acknowledge the significant attention given to small-scale fisheries on the occasion of the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 and beyond, and the strong support for ambitious Voluntary Guidelines on Aquaculture, which have now been finalized by the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

Fisheries provide a vital source of food, employment, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world. However, efforts by the international community to ensure the sustainability of fisheries are being seriously compromised by the scourge of IUU fishing activities.

We welcome that COFI 35 acknowledged the progress achieved on IUU fishing, in the context of the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), stressing the importance of this agreement and urging FAO to continue and strengthen its vital technical and capacity building work related to IUU fishing and to properly resource this work.

The FAO PSMA is the only global binding international agreement to fight IUU fishing. Since its entry into force in 2016, the number of parties has steadily increased, with over 100 countries currently bound by its provisions. Consequently, the frequency of required meetings has also risen accordingly. Moreover, important tools are being developed to ensure its effective implementation. As a result, the demands on the Secretariat by the Parties to assist them in the implementation of the Agreement have considerably increased. In that respect there is an urgent need to allocate additional adequate human and financial resources for the implementation as well as the sustainable functioning of the Agreement.

In this respect, the EU and its Member States note the letter addressed to the Director-General of FAO by the Parties to the PSMA after their fourth meeting held in Bali recently, requesting increased financial and administrative support for the Secretariat to continue the successful operation of the Agreement.

We fully support this request and invite the Conference and FAO Members to consider it positively, as an imperative step towards the eradication of IUU fishing, the effective fight against hunger, the sustainability and resilience of food systems and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

With these comments, we endorse the report.

## **CHILE**

*Presentado el viernes 16 de junio 2023 a las 11.09*

Chile en su calidad de Estado parte del Consejo de la FAO, ha hecho suyo los informes de los Comités que se presentan para esta Conferencia. Sobre el particular desea remitir algunos comentarios.

Se invita a la Conferencia a hacer suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité de Pesca, y se señalan a su atención los asuntos mundiales de políticas y regulación, en particular los siguientes:

- los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable y los instrumentos conexos: párr. 11 j)-m);

Chile quiere agradecer a FAO por la realización del 35° período de sesiones del comité de pesca, además queremos reconocer nuevamente la contribución del informe SOFIA 2022 destacando la importancia de este documento, particularmente en las materias de ordenamiento pesquero.

Además, Chile comparte y reconoce la importancia de la pesca y acuicultura como una importante fuente de alimentos y nutrición y manifestamos nuestra preocupación por el estado actual de los recursos pesqueros, para lo cual, compartimos la necesidad de difundir y fomentar la implementación del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, para el manejo de los recursos de pesca y acuicultura.

- la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: párr. 12) a)-j);

Chile quisiera destacar la labor de la FAO, en todo lo que dice relación a la pesca y la acuicultura en el contexto de la Agenda 2030, valoramos el papel clave en el seguimiento de los indicadores en el marco del ODS 14 y en el valioso aporte de datos para su publicación en foros internacionales, como el informe mundial sobre los progresos de los ODS. La contribución de FAO va más allá del ODS 14, aportando en avances de una amplia gama de los Objetivos, y aquí quisiéramos destacamos la gran contribución al avance del ODS 2, “Hambre cero”.

Queremos destacar especialmente y alentamos a seguir trabajando para lograr el objetivo de prohibir determinadas formas de subsidios a la pesca que contribuyen al exceso de capacidad y a la sobrepesca, eliminar los subsidios que contribuyen a la pesca INDNR.

- el apoyo a la pesca en pequeña escala y artesanal, incluido el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales: párr. 13 a)-h);

La pesca y acuicultura artesanal es de la más alta importancia social, económica y cultural para nuestro país y para ayudar a su desarrollo, se han impulsado cambios normativos relacionados: a) la regularización y el desarrollo integral los espacios de desembarque pesquero existentes en el país

“caletas” entregándoles un rol protagónico a las mismas organizaciones de pescadores en su administración, esta se denomina “Ley de Caletas”, b) El desarrollo de una normativa que reconoce visibiliza y apoya la acuicultura de la pequeña escala y las personas que desarrollan esta actividad, c) La aprobación de una ley de equidad de género para reconocer de manera explícita la contribución de la mujer al sector de la pesca y acuicultura artesanal, la cual fue impulsada desde sus orígenes por las propias mujeres que trabajan en el sector. Queremos además agradecer el trabajo realizado por FAO, los países miembros y las organizaciones por hacer suyo el esfuerzo para visibilizar y apoyar a la pesca y acuicultura artesanal, principalmente durante el 2022, en donde todos celebramos el año internacional de la pesca y acuicultura artesanal.

- la lucha contra la pesca INDNR: párr. 14 a)-r);

Chile acoge con satisfacción el compromiso mundial continuo para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca INDNR a través de una aplicación más eficiente y coordinada de los instrumentos internacionales como el Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado rector del Puerto, el Acuerdo de Cumplimiento de la FAO y el Acuerdo de las Naciones Unidas sobre las poblaciones de peces, entre otros.

Con relación al Registro Mundial y al Sistema de Intercambio de Información, compartimos la importancia de disponer e intercambiar información sobre el cumplimiento y aplicación de instrumentos para combatir la pesca INDNR a nivel mundial. En materia de transbordos, Chile respalda la aprobación de las Directrices voluntarias como una herramienta relevante para ampliar las medidas de control de AMERP, a los transbordos de peces en alta mar, y hace un llamado a avanzar para su incorporación en medidas de conservación y manejo de carácter vinculante al amparo de las Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca.

Chile destaca la necesidad de mejorar los procedimientos de control, monitoreo y vigilancia de las embarcaciones internacionales que dan apoyo a la flota pesquera (ej. buques de carga-transporte, reefers, buques tanque), muchas de estas embarcaciones están fuera del alcance de regulaciones pesqueras nacionales y de las Medidas de Conservación.

Queremos reconocer la necesidad de contar con instrumentos para combatir la pesca INDNR, mediante el desarrollo de indicadores, con el objetivo de tener una evaluación continua, de las medidas para mitigar la pesca INDNR.

- la mejora de los debates del COFI, incluidas las recomendaciones del Grupo de trabajo sobre la propuesta de establecimiento del Subcomité de Ordenación Pesquera, en particular las modalidades de funcionamiento y la oferta de financiación: párr. 15 a)-g);

Chile felicita el importante trabajo desarrollado por parte del Grupo ad hoc establecido por mandato del COFI en que expresó el interés en debatir la creación de un Subcomité de Ordenación Pesquera.

Al respecto, Chile destaca la importancia de dedicar más tiempo a las cuestiones normativas, incluidas las relacionadas con el ordenamiento de la pesca, a través de la creación del Subcomité de Ordenación Pesquera. Hacemos hincapié en la necesidad que el nuevo subcomité se mantenga a un mismo nivel de los preexistentes, dada la importancia de las temáticas que se abordarán.

- la lucha contra el cambio climático en la pesca y la acuicultura: informe sobre los progresos realizados y Plan de acción para la aplicación de la Estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático para 2022-2031: párr. 16 a)h);

El cambio climático y sus efectos sobre las comunidades costeras es un tema que no se puede soslayar el cual está causando una importante alteración en la abundancia y distribución de las especies, sin embargo, se debe destacar que los países pueden obtener importantes beneficios si aplican medidas de adaptación al cambio climático, especialmente formando alianzas de cooperación en esta materia.

Esperamos que la FAO refuerce su trabajo en América Latina y el Caribe en este ámbito, y, asimismo, pueda entregar insumos en materia de adaptación a los procesos en marcha. Adicionalmente, Chile quisiera agradecer los esfuerzos de la FAO en el trabajo desarrollado entre sesiones con el objeto de fortalecer la base de conocimientos sobre los efectos del cambio climático, los riesgos y la vulnerabilidad con relación a la pesca y brindar orientación sobre opciones de mitigación y adaptación, en particular sobre gestión del riesgo de desastres a nivel mundial, regional y nacional.

Finalmente, mencionar, que creemos que la nueva estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático 2022- 2031 brinda una nueva oportunidad para enfrentar el cambio climático, tanto a nivel global y local, que debe ir en línea con las acciones impulsadas por el Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas.

- la integración de la biodiversidad en la pesca y la acuicultura: párr. 17 a)-j);

Chile cuenta áreas marinas protegidas, que son con áreas delimitadas y definidas geográficamente cuya administración y regulación permiten alcanzar objetivos específicos de conservación y/o preservación. En nuestro país existen cuatro tipos de Áreas Marinas Protegidas: los parques marinos y las reservas marinas, que son esencialmente acuáticas; y los santuarios de la naturaleza y las áreas marinas y costeras protegidas de múltiples usos, que pueden contener porciones de tierra. Todas son decretadas por el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, pero en el caso de las dos primeras, es la Subsecretaría de Pesca y Acuicultura la encargada de proveer los antecedentes para su destinación, quedando la tuición en manos del Servicio Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura. Entre todas cubren más del 40% de la superficie de la Zona Económica Exclusiva.

Estas áreas son declaradas para la conservación y gestión sustentable de la biodiversidad marina, para lo cual se establecen medidas de administración y de regulación para el acceso a las actividades pesqueras y otras para prevenir impactos negativos sobre esta biodiversidad y el ecosistema, de acuerdo con el Plan General de Administración correspondiente y el marco general establecido en la Ley General de Pesca y Acuicultura.

#### Anuncio

Durante 2023 se encuentra en avance en el Congreso la ley que crea el Servicio de Biodiversidad y Áreas protegidas (SBAP).

- las novedades en los procesos mundiales y regionales relacionados con la pesca y la acuicultura: párr. 18 a)-l).

Chile valora toda la labor, dedicación y énfasis que le ha dado la FAO a los temas relacionados con la pesca, acuicultura y océano en general, esto por tanto que nuestro país asigna especial importancia a estas materias, puesto que cuenta con una de las zonas económicas exclusivas más grandes del mundo, como a su vez, participa activamente en los distintos procesos regionales y globales, asimismo somos parte de los instrumentos pertinentes y relevantes para la gobernanza de la pesca y acuicultura en el marco del Derecho del Mar.

En relación al papel que las organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera (OROP) y los órganos asesores regionales de pesca desempeñan en la gobernanza en materia de pesca y el desarrollo de la acuicultura, Chile manifiesta su apoyo al rol de la OROPS para la ordenación pesquera en el alta mar

en el manejo de poblaciones de peces transzonales y altamente migratorias y creemos indispensable realizar los esfuerzos necesarios para el fortalecimiento de estas organizaciones, por ello, Chile ve de forma muy positiva el respaldo que le ha dado FAO a la Red de secretarías de los órganos regionales de pesca, y consideramos que es un área que presenta un gran potencial de colaboración y asistencia técnica

#### Otros:

- Decisiones y recomendaciones formuladas por el subcomité de acuicultura del COFI en su 11.ª reunión (24-27 de mayo de 2022)

Chile agradece la realización de la 11.ª reunión del Subcomité de Acuicultura, mencionar que la agenda presentada fue de gran relevancia e interés para nuestro país, en especial respecto a las iniciativas en el marco del año IYafa, al fomento de la resiliencia de la acuicultura para velar por la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y los medios de vida, frente al cambio climático, las enfermedades de las especies acuáticas, las floraciones algales nocivas, el COVID-19, y las perturbaciones de las cadenas de valor, entre otras.

Chile solicitó a FAO: a) La elaboración de un programa de extensión para América Latina y el Caribe destinado al sector de la acuicultura artesanal y centrado en la diversificación productiva y de subsistencia en favor de su resiliencia b) Continuar con el trabajo para la elaboración de las Directrices para la acuicultura sostenible, de manera que constituyan una visión clara del desarrollo acuícola mundial y describan con claridad y concisión las vías para hacer realidad esa visión, c) Aplicación de medidas encaminadas a mejorar el cumplimiento del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, d) En el marco del Plan de acción de la FAO sobre la resistencia a los antimicrobianos para 2021-2025, aumentar la concienciación, reforzar la vigilancia, prestar apoyo a los miembros para promover el uso responsable de los antimicrobianos en los animales acuáticos.

- Decisiones y recomendaciones formuladas por el subcomité de comercio pesquero del COFI en su 18.ª reunión (8 de abril a 8 de mayo y 7-9 y 20 de junio de 2022)

Chile quiere destacar que, en el ámbito de la Pesca en pequeña escala y comercio internacional, la importancia de la promoción y difusión de medidas comerciales internacionales y aranceles aplicados a la pesca en pequeña escala, para apoyar a las organizaciones y los productores de este sector, respecto al comercio y el acceso a los mercados, centrándose en las mujeres y los jóvenes. Incluyendo, además, el apoyo para la creación de marcos jurídicos y colaboración para promover el acceso de la pesca en pequeña escala a los mercados, avanzando en sistemas de rastreabilidad y de certificación.

En materia de Acuerdos comerciales y acceso al mercado para los productos de la pesca y la acuicultura, Chile apoya la propuesta de que la FAO de elaborar base de datos al respecto, para lo cual recomendó que se presentara un documento sobre el ámbito en que se describieran en detalle los fundamentos de la base de datos. Apoyamos, así mismo, el avance en un sistema comercial transparente, sólido, armonizado y no discriminatorio, sin crear obstáculos innecesarios al comercio.

Finalmente, solicitamos continuar con acciones para promover la responsabilidad social y las condiciones de trabajo decentes en el sector de la pesca y la acuicultura y sus cadenas de valor conforme a las orientaciones de la FAO, de carácter voluntario y no vinculante, con enfoque práctico y complementario, con un lenguaje sencillo, como un apoyo basado en convenios, acuerdos y normas internacionales existentes.

#### JAPAN

*Submitted Friday 16 June 2023, 13:02*

We express our sincere gratitude to FAO Secretariat and Members for their invaluable assistance to Mr. OTA Shingo from Japan, the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 35) in facilitating its operation. Japan welcomes and approves the proposal of the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) with a view to achieving sustainable fisheries and improving the efficiency of discussions in COFI, and we appreciate the strenuous and utmost efforts undertaken by the Working Group for the proposal. We hope that the SubCommittee



will promote the sustainability of fisheries as well as enhance the role of fisheries in advancing food security and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We also welcome the approval of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment reflecting Members' views. We believe this will contribute to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. FAO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations with rich and deep technical expertise in fisheries, is expected to further contribute to the global frameworks including the Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The Secretariat appreciates the positive comments in relation to the role of FAO in the areas of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Regarding the comment on actualization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) indicators and their methodologies, the Secretariat wishes to share that FAO has monitored the state of fishery resources since 1971, based on a reference list of about 500 global fish stocks. The summary of these analyses are presented in the biennial FAO Flagship publication *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* (SOFIA) and are used to report on indicator SDG 14.4 at the global level. The methodology is publicly available and has remained consistent to ensure time-series continuity. FAO is also upgrading its methodology for estimating the state of stocks. This update involves revising and expanding the list of considered stocks; a more effective engagement with national and regional agencies; a classification system of stocks into three categories based on the information available; and finally, improvements in the reporting and access of results. FAO has been piloting and testing the updated methodology regionally and will publish interim results in its SOFIA 2024 publication.

The Secretariat appreciates the comments on the continued relevance and application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as a reference for the development of national policies. It also appreciates the statement recognizing the work of FAO and Members towards the approval of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA).

The Secretariat welcomes the comment stating FAO should amplify the key messages from the SOFIA Report to ensure that they reach a wider audience. SOFIA's key messages already serve as the foundation for communication and outreach efforts for conferences and events, including the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, the preparation of an [Information package for biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction \(BBNJ\) delegates](#), and interventions of FAO officials at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) events. These key messages also allowed the framing of FAO's [Blue Transformation](#). We take note of the comment and will enhance our efforts to ensure these key messages are prominently featured and communicated. We note the importance of aligning FAO strategies with other international agreements of relevance.

Further, the draft of the policy guidance on mainstreaming climate change into the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture is currently under development, focusing specifically on the development of climate smart management plans. Case studies are being compiled to provide examples and highlight good practices in this regard.

In reference to the Blue Transformation Programme Priority Area and Roadmap, updates are shared with FAO Members through the biennial SOFIA Report and the biennial Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

The Secretariat appreciates the positive comments from Members and their support to the proposed COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Aquaculture. We also take note of the comments in relation to sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including the need for further work on strengthening policies, on raising awareness of the role of the small-scale sector in the context of food security,

nutrition and poverty eradication, on improving the participation of women and youth, as well as on social protection measures.

The Secretariat appreciates the suggestion to develop fishing evaluation methods and the importance of measures to adapt to climate change, including cooperation alliances. We welcome the positive comments with respect to FAO's work in regional and global processes relating to fishing and fish farming, and the efforts to integrate biodiversity into fish management policies.

In relation to the 18th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, the Secretariat is undertaking specific actions in the field of information on access to markets centred on small fishers access to the FAO GLOBEFISH website, as well as the continuation of the development of FAO guidelines on social responsibility in the value chains of fishing and aquaculture.

In reference to the 11th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, the Secretariat highlights that FAO has facilitated the exchange of experiences among Members through a Regional Meeting for the Exchange of Experiences on the Matter of Aquaculture Extension in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually on 1 December 2022, within the framework of the work programme of the Commission for Small-Scale, Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPESAALC).

FAO continues to work with Members and Reference Centres on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and aquaculture biosecurity, and relatedly on risk assessment and management, through the Progressive Management Pathway for Aquaculture Biosecurity.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item, and that also includes the colleagues that join us online. The floor is open.

#### **Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia notes the Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), along with the Committee's valuable recommendations with the emphasis on several key matters. Relating to paragraph 14 (d) of the COFI Report, we would like to report to the commission that Indonesia has successfully hosted the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) in Bali, from 8-12 May 2023, which resulting in Bali's strategy, among others, that we hope could contribute to the work of COFI and global efforts in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a whole.

#### **Mr Manuel BARANGE (Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture)**

I just do not want to miss the opportunity to just thank the Members for what I thought was a remarkable the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting in terms of the outcomes.

First, the support for a new Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management. The endorsement of new voluntary guidelines on trans-shipment. The support for the Blue Transformation roadmap of FAO. The emphasis on small scale fisheries coinciding with the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and noting the request for FAO to continue working with World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly in relation to the agreement of fisheries subsidies.

There was a COFI meeting full of decisions and outcomes, and I think that I want to use the opportunity to thank all the Members for their collaborative spirit that allowed us to complete that volume of work in that sitting.

#### **Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)**

I particularly support what Mr Manuel Barange said. I think it has been a positive one in terms of the speed but also in terms of the content, and it will be a good milestone if we can have the Sub-Committee on Small Scale Fisheries, which will really make the difference regarding the sustainable management of our fisheries resources, and work with World Trade Organization (WTO) in the implementation of the decision on the fisheries subsidies.

#### **Mr Mohammed Ahmed M. ALGHAMDI (Chairperson of Committee on Fisheries)**

Thank you for your support, and also we are looking ahead of us for the 36th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), and we appreciate all the support and collaboration. The extensive Report is going to make it further, but we look forward to having an even better Report for the next COFI 36.

**Mr Neil FOURIE (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

The United Kingdom (UK) submitted its written comment on this Item but I would be failing in my duty if I did not thank Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Director Mr Manuel Barange, and the fisheries team for excellent work done to date, and we welcome the response where it is committed to continue its work on anti-microbial resistance.

**Ms Saadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original Language Arabic)**

In addition to what has been said as part of the Committees, something else that is important is the creation of the Organization for the Red Sea and Gulf. This will be discussed at a meeting in Saudi Arabia this year, and I just wanted to let you know.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So we can now move to the draft conclusions.

Item 12.3, *Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (5-9 September 2022)*.

1. The Conference endorsed the *Report of the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)*.

I will take up the hammer and we agree on this one, it is so decided.

<i>Item 12.4</i>	<i>Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)</i>
<i>Point 12.4</i>	<i>Rapport de la 26<sup>e</sup> session du Comité des forêts (3-7 octobre 2022)</i>
<i>Tema 12.4</i>	<i>Informe del 26.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (3-7 de octubre de 2022)</i>

**CHAIRPERSON**

Sub-Item 12.4, *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)*, document C 2023/25.

Also this Report was adopted by COFO and was reviewed by the 171st Session of the Council. The introduction of the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry, Mr Günter Walkner from Austria, has been published on the Conference web page.

**Introduction to Item 12.4: Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)**

*Mr Günter Walkner, Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry*

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) held its 26th Session from 3 to 7 October 2022. The Session was conducted as a hybrid event for the first time. Of the 120 Members of the Committee, 109 participated in the Session, including five Ministers, and a total of 758 participants.

The Report of the 26th Session of COFO was endorsed by the 171st Session of the Council (CL 171/REP) and is submitted to the Conference in document C 2023/25. The following items are brought to the attention of the Conference.

The Committee endorsed the proposed priority areas of work in forestry in 2022-2023 and beyond, and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

The Committee discussed the item on agriculture and forestry linkages, presented to both the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) and COFO 26, in line with the Council's request to strengthen coordination on cross-sectoral matters. The Committee requested FAO to continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry

and scaling up its related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework. Moreover, COFO recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing necessary science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest data sets, and compiling case studies and good practices which should be reported at COFO 27. COFO also recommended FAO to conduct, subject to available extra-budgetary resources, a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, including agroecological principles and practices and other innovative approaches, to update the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) categories covering production systems integrating trees and forests, and to report on progress to COFO 27.

The Committee recommended FAO to support Members to promote the development and sustainable consumption and production of wood and non-wood forest products, contributing to improved livelihoods, including through building capacities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Committee welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and encouraged FAO to continue to provide support to its Members in their efforts to mainstream biodiversity, in particular on forestry-related actions.

The Committee welcomed the ongoing improvements of the FRA process, the recent FAO FRA Remote Sensing Survey, and recommended FAO to continue the development and harmonization of methods and definitions for forest data collection, including for primary forests. It also recommended further efforts towards a definition of “forest degradation” during the FRA 2025 cycle.

The Committee welcomed FAO’s and the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) coleadership to promote the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and recommended FAO to support Members with tools, methodologies and capacity development initiatives to strengthen their capacity to scale-up forest ecosystem restoration efforts.

The Committee recommended that the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 clearly sets out FAO’s priorities for climate action in agrifood systems at a sectoral level, including for the crop, forest, fisheries and aquaculture and livestock sectors, at local, national, regional and global levels, and recognized the importance of mobilizing additional resources to support the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 through its Action Plan, including for forest-related climate action.

The Committee welcomed the joint FAO and UNEP initiative to develop and implement the Global Fire Management Platform to reduce the negative impacts of wildfires on livelihoods, landscapes and the global climate, in consultation with, and building on, Members’ expertise, existing processes and expert networks to avoid duplication and overlaps.

The Committee called on FAO to include relevant forms of science and innovation in forestry in the preparation of the regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25).

The Committee took note of the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress, appreciated the Youth Call for Action made at the event, and invited Members to consider appropriate actions for supporting youth engagement in forestry at all levels. The Committee discussed forests and sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest products and took note of the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood (as part of the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress).

The Committee acknowledged the work of the Statutory Bodies in forestry, including the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs), the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea, the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI), the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC), and the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

The Committee recommended FAO to strengthen its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and to facilitate active participation of CPF Members in the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Agradecemos la presentación del informe del 26° Período de Sesiones del Comité Forestal (COFO) y tomamos nota de sus principales conclusiones. Particularmente, Colombia agradece a la FAO y al COFO la publicación del informe El estado de los bosques del mundo 2022, al tiempo que reconocemos el potencial de los bosques para abordar los desafíos mundiales, como el cambio climático, la pérdida de biodiversidad y la degradación ambiental.

El 52% del territorio de nuestro país se encuentra cubierto por bosques naturales, esto es, 59,7 millones de hectáreas, más de la mitad del territorio continental del país. Por lo tanto, proteger y conservar los bosques constituye una prioridad estratégica para el Gobierno Nacional. Hacemos un llamado a trabajar conjuntamente para mejorar la gestión y el uso sostenible de los recursos forestales, dada su importante función en las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible: económica, social y ambiental.

Igualmente, agradecemos a la FAO y al COFO por su labor de sensibilizar acerca de la función socioeconómica de los bosques y resaltamos la importancia de que se promuevan que los pequeños productores, las mujeres, los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales tengan una función activa en relación con los asuntos forestales.

## ARGENTINA

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Como punto inicial, nos gustaría indicar que la Argentina está satisfecha con los resultados de los debates de la sesión plenaria 26° de COFO ya que, desde nuestra perspectiva, reflejan elementos centrales para favorecer visiones basadas en la ciencia y la evidencia.

En esa línea, quisiéramos destacar los siguientes elementos contenidos en el reporte para que sean tenidos en cuenta por la conferencia:

Primero, los bosques tienen un rol transversal y crucial, ya que no solo desempeñan funciones ambientales y ecosistémicas, sino también contribuyen a la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición, y para el logro de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles, en sus tres dimensiones: ambiental, social y económica.

Segundo, la silvicultura debe ser un elemento integral en los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios sostenibles. De allí la importancia de que cuestiones interrelacionadas entre la agricultura y los bosques sean presentados en COAG y COFO y que el nuevo Marco Estratégico de la FAO refleje la importancia de las cuestiones forestales y la necesidad de trabajar de manera intersectorial y con diferentes asociados.

Tercero, aumentar la producción de alimentos y la seguridad alimentaria sin reducir la superficie forestal sigue siendo un desafío en el mundo como lo refleja la Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales 2022. Existen muchas soluciones equilibradas posibles para tal desafío desde diferentes enfoques de sistemas alimentarios, teniendo en cuenta las diferentes capacidades, prioridades y realidades de cada sector y país. Por lo tanto, insistimos en la premisa que la agricultura y la ganadería no necesariamente tiene que contraponerse a los bosques.

La deforestación es el resultado de un modelo de desarrollo que puede ser evitado a través de prácticas que complementan las actividades agrícolas con el cuidado de los bosques. Existen sobrada evidencia sobre el aporte positivo que la innovación tecnológica puede ofrecer a la producción agrícola y ganadera y así favorecer la complementación entre este sector y los bosques. Ejemplo de ello es el Manejo de Bosques con Ganadería Integrada (MBGI) y los distintos sistemas agroforestales y silvopastoriles que se realizan en nuestro país.

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation supports the recommendations of the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry. We are pleased with the results of FAO's work on forestry for the period 2020-2021. We underscore the importance of further implementation of measures to ensure sustainable forest management at the country level, in line with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

We advocate for the implementation of FAO recommendations in the development and sustainable use and production of wood and non-wood products. We highlight the need to consider national interests, conditions and circumstances when countries assess ecosystem impacts when deciding whether to increase or continue the sustainable production of forest products.

We welcome FAO's work to collect and analyse necessary scientific and evidence-based data on the interdependence of agriculture and forestry, while striking a balance between the interests of both sectors. We support FAO's preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025. The Russian Federation is ready to take part in these efforts, including as a member of the FRA 2025 Advisory Group.

We support the joint FAO-UNEP initiative to create the Global Fire Management Platform, so long as its databases will be based on official country information, whenever such information is available.

## **MEXICO**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 17.49*

México toma nota del contenido del informe del 26° periodo de sesiones del Comité Forestal (COFO). En este marco, desea destacar el potencial transformador de las vías forestales para hacer frente a diversos retos que enfrenta el planeta. En particular, México considera necesario seguir promoviendo iniciativas en el ámbito forestal enfocadas a la prevención de los efectos del cambio climático, la pérdida de la biodiversidad y la contaminación del aire, así como aquellas que permitan la maximización de las oportunidades que benefician de manera prioritaria a los grupos más desfavorecidos.

En México, las áreas forestales cubren el 71% de su superficie, proporcionando beneficios tangibles e intangibles para el bienestar de las personas; 11.9 millones de personas, de hecho, habitan en áreas forestales o dependen de los ecosistemas forestales; y 70.6 millones de hectáreas de superficie forestal son de propiedad social. De ahí que reconoce la importancia de detener la deforestación, restaurar las tierras degradadas y usar los bosques de manera sostenible para alcanzar objetivos económicos y ambientales.

El apoyo de la FAO es de crucial importancia para la implementación de las tres vías forestales en los países miembros, particularmente para su integración en planes y políticas nacionales orientados a cumplir los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y otros compromisos internacionales relacionados, así como para promover el incremento de inversiones y acciones; y el empoderamiento de las comunidades.

Invitamos a la FAO para que continúe apoyando a los países en desarrollo a explorar mecanismos y alternativas para obtener financiación directa para los pequeños productores, las mujeres rurales, los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales. Asimismo, esperamos que la FAO brinde apoyo para promover intercambios de conocimientos y sobre nuevas tecnologías en los que se beneficien a los grupos antes mencionados, con miras a empoderarles e incentivarles para que asuman un papel de

liderazgo en la implementación de las vías forestales. El apoyo a estos sectores es un tema de particular importancia para México, en el que esperamos acciones y propuestas concretas por parte de la FAO

En este sentido, coincidimos con el llamado a la FAO para fomentar la sensibilización, la creación de capacidad y la investigación y la innovación, así como a facilitar el acceso a los mercados y las inversiones mediante diálogos sobre políticas a escala mundial, regional y nacional, e intercambios técnicos, a fin de que los productos madereros sostenibles y sus cadenas de valor contribuyan de manera eficaz a mitigar el cambio climático y apoyar la adaptación a éste.

Por otra parte, México reconoce la complementariedad entre el sector agrícola y el sector forestal en la labor por alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible, y que los procesos de deforestación y degradación de los recursos forestales tienen orígenes tanto internos como externos al sector forestal, por lo que solo a través de una perspectiva de transversalidad en las acciones y políticas públicas, y con un enfoque territorial, será posible reestructurar y reducir las presiones que existen sobre los ecosistemas forestales.

Es esencial aplicar un enfoque de gestión integrada del territorio entre la agricultura y la silvicultura, impulsando complementariedades y sinergias, y desalentando la competencia sectorial por el uso del suelo, a través de una mejor coordinación entre diferentes órdenes de gobierno.

Asimismo, se debe seguir trabajando en la manera de desvincular el crecimiento de la producción agrícola de la pérdida de bosques y de otros tipos de biodiversidad, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de erradicar la pobreza y luchar contra el hambre, así como las necesidades de los países en desarrollo en materia de asistencia financiera y creación de capacidad.

México también se ha visto afectado por el cambio de uso de suelo de tierras forestales a tierras agrícolas y por la conversión de terrenos forestales a pastizales. Para revertir esta tendencia, se impulsan programas y proyectos que incluyen prácticas silvopastoriles y agroforestales sostenibles, entre los que destaca el Programa Sembrando Vida. Esta experiencia se ha buscado acercar también a El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haití, Cuba y Belice como parte de la cooperación internacional que ofrece México a la región.

De igual manera, México reconoce la importancia de las actividades de manejo del fuego para reducir el peligro de incendios devastadores, y de mantener los servicios ecosistémicos de regulación climática y conservación de la biodiversidad que proveen los bosques. Para ello, México impulsa acciones de capacitación, prevención, combate, investigación y monitoreo de los incendios forestales, buscando salvaguardar la vida de las personas y proteger los ecosistemas forestales, y reconociendo también al fuego como un elemento esencial y natural en el funcionamiento de numerosos ecosistemas forestales. En este marco, reitera su disposición a cooperar con otros países en este tema y a apoyar otros países en la atención de incendios forestales.

Con estos comentarios México hace suyo el informe del 26º periodo de sesiones del Comité Forestal de la FAO.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry and endorses the findings and recommendations of the Report of the 26th Session in full.

The Report details the range of important contributions that FAO is making in monitoring and reporting on the state of the world's forests, as well as the diverse activities undertaken across the broad policy areas covered in the work programme.

We highlight the importance of scaling up the use of sustainable wood-based products for their renewable and carbon storage potential, and reaffirm our support for FAO's ongoing efforts, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests' "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" initiative.

Additionally, we reaffirm the important role that sustainable intensification plays in achieving biodiversity outcomes, by reducing land needed to meet timber demand and leaving more land available for conservation. We emphasise the importance of considering this in a balanced approach to the Action Plan for 2024-27 and implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 8:45*

Switzerland welcomes the report and praises the work of the Chairperson and the Secretariat that we were able to arrive at a report that all participants could agree to, despite the challenges posed by the hybrid format.

We sincerely hope that the next COFO Session will be in person only and that a hybrid format should only be used if required by exceptional circumstances.

We would like to highlight that COFO is first and foremost an exchange with technical and policy recommendations that helps support and guide FAO's forestry work programme. Exchanging, networking and learning among experts represents an important added value of the Committee.

As such, we regret the new modality for negotiations used during the 26th Session of the COFO, with Plenary, onscreen editing, turning technical processes into political ones, and urge FAO to steer COFO back to using the Drafting Committee for the production of the report.

Switzerland remains committed to advancing FAO's work on forests and we hope to receive information on the working modalities well in advance of COFO 27.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes the COFO Report, as well as the decisions of the 171st Session of the Council. Item 5: forests and sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest products – meeting demands and supporting resilient local economies (paragraph 15).

Canada agrees that the ability to monitor and demonstrate legal and sustainable wood production and value addition is an essential contribution to trade in legally harvested wood products as well as their sustainable consumption. We support the recommendation that FAO support Members to promote the development and sustainable consumption and production of wood and non-wood forest products, contributing to improved livelihoods, including through building capacities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Item 6: agriculture and forestry linkages (paragraph 17)

Canada views the linkages between agriculture and forests as crucial in the effort to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation. Globally, agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation, meaning the world must seek to achieve better synergies between them through inter-sectorial approaches for sustainable agrifood systems if we are to meet targets on climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.

FAO is ideally placed to continue to actively identify the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry, as well as pitfalls and challenges, and to scale up related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework in ways that do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and benefit small-scale producers who are key for global food production. Canada emphasizes that FAO's technical expertise is needed in sustainable agricultural practices that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of forests, while minimizing environmental degradation and increasing productivity based on proven practices, science, and innovation, to address the drivers of forest loss.

Relatedly, operationalizing a globally agreed definition of "forest degradation" is key to halting it. Without an agreed definition, reporting on forest degradation will remain scattered and of little value. Canada therefore fully supports the recommendation for FAO to lead discussions with Members, as



well as with relevant international organizations, to define “forest degradation” within the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) process. Work on deforestation and forest degradation also relate to agenda Item 7 on climate change.

**Item 7.2: forests fires and the global fire platform (paragraph 20)**

Wildland fire is a natural disturbance in the boreal biome, one that is required for its regeneration and longevity. However, we recognize that fires have grown in size, intensity and frequency due to climate change, significantly endangering communities and infrastructure. Canada supports the joint FAO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative to develop and implement the Global Fire Management Platform to reduce the negative impacts of wildfires on livelihoods, landscapes and the global climate, in consultation with, and building on, Members’ expertise, existing processes and expert networks to avoid duplication and overlap.

**NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand fully supports FAO’s focus on linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors and supports FAO in collecting and analysing the evidence base on interdependencies between these sectors. We support the endorsement of the Report of COFO.

**GERMANY**

*Submitted Wednesday 14 June 2023, 15:17*

Germany aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union and its Member States. Complementary to it, Germany would like to specifically address the issue of wildland fire risk reduction.

Like other countries, Germany is observing an increasing drought and forest fire risk in various regions. With often succeeding bark beetle damage, a high percentage of forest area is now affected. Moreover, in some areas, remnants of mines and ammunition in forest soils stemming from the Second World War time still prevent on-ground and restrict air-bound firefighting. Yet, we are aware that fire challenges in Germany are still small in comparison to other challenges by storm, drought bark beetle and snow and also in comparison with fire risks in many other countries in the world. We also note that globally, in some types of forests, fire is an inherent part of natural processes and needs even more specific management approaches.

We pay attention to the respective development in Germany. In the light of globally increasing wildfire risks due to climate change, Germany is highly interested in supporting the scaling-up of global risk reduction activities on wildfires. Germany has been the host country of the Global Fire Monitoring Center in Freiburg for many decades. Since its foundation, this Center has been one of the knowledge hubs and drivers of regional and global networking and collaboration on preparedness and prevention of wildland fires.

Partly financed by Germany, several Regional Fire Management Resource Centers were successfully established worldwide. Moreover, Germany as current Chair country of the FOREST EUROPE process, is leading work on shaping a pan-European Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRISK) which also covers fire risks as a major forest disturbance. In continuation of our contributions to date and jointly with the Global Fire Monitoring Center in Freiburg, the German Government stands ready to contribute with knowledge, experience and financial support to the establishment and development of the Global Fire Management Hub under the lead of FAO, with the support of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR). In doing so, we would urge the new Hub to build to the greatest possible extent on already existing networks and regional centres to create synergies and avoid duplication.

On substance, Germany would urge FAO to build on the comprehensive Landscape Fire Governance Framework which was just recently adopted by the 8th International Wildland Fire Conference in Porto. This framework constitutes the best available compilation of knowledge and lessons learnt from the existing networks, inter alia, facilitated by the Global Fire Monitoring Center.

## EUROPEAN UNION

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I have the honour of writing to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement. We appreciated having a common agenda item with the Committee on Agriculture on agriculture and forestry linkages. Sharing views from different perspectives is crucial to reach consensus and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. However, we regret that the main driver of deforestation – agricultural expansion – could not be agreed upon in the final report.

In this context, we would also like to highlight that COFO26 recommended continuing the development and harmonisation of methods and definitions for forest-related data collection, especially concerning primary forests and forest degradation during the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 cycle.

We are deeply concerned by the serious time constraints that were in place during COFO26. Although the hours of the meeting were extended several times, we regret that we were not allowed to hear the contributions from Chairpersons of the Statutory Bodies in forestry and from observers.

As for cross-sectoral cooperation, we support FAO's leading role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and we call for cooperation within the CPF to be further enhanced with a view to reaching the goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

With these comments, the EU and its Member States endorse the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry.

## CHILE

*Presentado el viernes 16 de junio 2023 a las 11.09*

Chile en su calidad de Estado parte del Consejo de la FAO, ha hecho suyo los informes de los Comités que se presentan para esta Conferencia. Sobre el particular desea remitir algunos comentarios. Se invita a la Conferencia a hacer suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Comité Forestal, y en particular se señala a su atención cuanto sigue:

- “Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación de la Estrategia de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad en los distintos sectores agrícolas y su Plan de acción para 2021-23”, párrafo 22.

Chile cuenta con el Plan “Siembra por Chile”, que forma parte de las medidas de reactivación económica, mitigación de precios y creación de empleos que el Gobierno de Chile se encuentra implementando desde abril de 2022. Dentro de sus medidas se encuentra el Programa de Restauración de Bosques Nativos a Gran Escala. Dentro de este programa, se considera acciones para iniciar procesos de restauración de bosques nativos a gran escala, priorizando zonas de conservación y protección de suelos, humedales, cabeceras de cuenca y cuerpos de agua. Esto incluye la ejecución de actividades para iniciar procesos de restauración in situ, tales como acciones de exclusión (cerco), preparación de sitio para establecimiento de regeneración, entrega de plantas e insumos para enriquecimiento, reforestación y recuperación de bosques nativos, faenas para el control de especies invasoras que compitan con la regeneración del bosque, restauración en núcleos, protección individual, entre las más relevantes. Por otra parte, la ENCCRV se encuentra en su tercera fase de pago por resultados, donde se han desarrollado acciones de restauración para mejorar la provisión de agua en cuencas hidrográficas.

- “La restauración y el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Restauración de los Ecosistemas (2021-2030)”, párrafo 25;

En Chile se encuentra desarrollando un Plan Nacional de Restauración a Escala de Paisajes, Plan biministerial, con la meta de alcanzar 1 millón de hectáreas restauradas al año 2030. La iniciativa considera tanto ecosistemas terrestres, como de aguas continentales y marino costeros y prioriza la vulnerabilidad social, económica y ambiental en el país, para recuperar la funcionalidad ecológica de paisajes y así mejorar la calidad de vida de las personas. El propósito es recuperar los bienes y

servicios ecosistémicos y la biodiversidad; reducir las amenazas y presiones sobre distintos ecosistemas; y aumentar los beneficios ambientales, económicos y sociales, favoreciendo una economía de la restauración basada en alianzas público-privada sustentables.

Esta iniciativa se enmarca dentro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 13 y 15, enfocados en adoptar medidas urgentes para combatir el Cambio Climático y sus efectos, y gestionar sosteniblemente los bosques, luchar contra la desertificación, detener e invertir la degradación de las tierras y la pérdida de biodiversidad, respectivamente.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday 16 June 2023, 13:02*

With the growing importance of promoting sustainable forest management in the broader context of international development agendas including the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, we reiterate that the role FAO is expected to play as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations has been enhanced.

We commend that the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry discussed the linkage between agriculture and forestry as its agenda item with the aim of examining interrelated issues on and harnessing a synergy between the agriculture and forestry sectors. We look forward to FAO's continuous leadership for enhanced action towards sustainable growth in both sectors in collaboration with international partners such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF), including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) with deep expertise in the dissemination of landscape approaches and rich experiences in agroforestry in the tropics.

We also reiterate the importance of sustainable forest management and timber use. As a contribution to global carbon neutrality, Japan continues to engage in international cooperation and collaboration through Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) and other initiatives by sharing our experience of the "cut, use, plant and grow" cycle.

### ***Response from Secretariat Réponses du Secrétariat Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments received from Members on Item 12.4, Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022) and takes note of Colombia's appreciation for the publication The State of the World's Forests 2022 Report and acknowledges the importance of the socio-economic value of forests, especially for small producers, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Secretariat acknowledges Argentina's recognition of the important linkages between forestry and agriculture and the need for consideration of forestry and agriculture interrelated issues by both the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). We took note of Argentina's emphasis on the need for seeking evidence-based and balanced solutions, as well as of the interrelation between agriculture, livestock and forestry. The Secretariat wishes to share that the ongoing valuable collaboration between the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock provides an opportunity for further consideration of the complementarities between agriculture, livestock and forestry.

The Secretariat thanks the Russian Federation for its appreciation of FAO's work in forestry in the 2020- 2021 period, appreciates their support to the preparations for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 and took note of the suggestion concerning official information from countries, where data is available, in the context of the Global Fire Management Hub, which is being co-developed by FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners.

The Secretariat takes note of Mexico's observation on the important role that FAO plays in supporting developing countries to explore financing alternatives for small producers, rural women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Secretariat appreciates Mexico's emphasis on the need for collaboration between agriculture and forestry, the essential role of integrated land management approaches and discouraging sectorial competition for land use. We finally appreciate Mexico's

generous offer to collaborate with other Members on prevention, combat and monitoring of forest fires.

The Secretariat notes with appreciation Australia's support to FAO's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable use of wood, including through the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Initiative under the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). We also take note of Australia's suggestion for a balanced Action Plan for 2024-2027 and implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

The Secretariat takes note of Switzerland's observations on possible modalities of the future sessions of COFO, including on format, on-screen editing and the role of the Drafting Committee. The proposed working modalities for the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry, to be held from 22 to 26 July 2024, will be shared with Members well in advance of the Session, as per COFO's Rules of Procedure.

The Secretariat appreciates Canada's support to promoting the development and sustainable consumption and production of wood and non-wood forest products and to FAO's work on agriculture and forestry linkages to achieve better synergies between them through inter-sectorial approaches for sustainable agrifood systems. The Secretariat appreciates Canada's support to FAO's leading role to define "forest degradation" within the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 process. The Secretariat welcomes Canada's support to the joint FAO and UNEP initiative on the Global Fire Management Hub.

The Secretariat thanks New Zealand for its support to FAO's work on the linkages between forestry and agriculture and notes New Zealand's support to FAO in collecting and analysing the evidence base on interdependencies between these sectors.

The Secretariat thanks Germany for their commitment in addressing the wildfire risk reduction and appreciates Germany's support to the Global Fire Management Hub, under the lead of FAO, with the support of UNEP and the United Nations Office for Disaster and Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The Secretariat notes Germany's suggestions that the Global Fire Management Hub should build on existing networks and regional centres, including the work of the Global Fire Monitoring Center, and align with the Landscape Fire Governance Framework.

The Secretariat acknowledges the European Union's appreciation for having a joint agenda item for COFO and COAG on agriculture and forestry linkages and took note of its recommendation for further recognition of trade-offs between the two sectors as regards deforestation. In the context of the ongoing FRA 2025 cycle, FAO uses improved guidance on reporting on primary forests and collects data on existing national forest degradation definitions, related criteria, existing monitoring systems and their results.

The Secretariat appreciates Chile's national efforts in the implementation of actions related to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 as well as the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan.

Finally, the Secretariat thanks Japan for its encouragement to FAO for leading enhanced action towards sustainable growth in both agriculture and forest sectors, in collaboration with the members of the CPF. The Secretariat appreciates Japan's support to the SW4SW Initiative.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item?

Excellency, Mr Ambassador, if you wish to respond or Deputy Director General.

## **Mr Günter WALKNER (Chairperson of Committee on Forestry)**

It is an honour to address the FAO Conference in my capacity as Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry (COFO). I would like to thank Members for your guidance, and comments made in written submissions. I appreciate and take note of the importance of forests in transforming agrifood systems, as expressed by Members for the *four betters*, leaving no one behind.

Forests are the foundation of life on this planet. They play a central role in combatting the challenges humanity is facing: climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, and poverty. They provide food, income, livelihoods, medicine, and shelter for those who are most in need. Sustainable forest management can help build an economy and prosperity for us and for future generations.

Forests and trees can make a key contribution to reach the Global Forest Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. But we have a lot of work to do meeting these targets. The 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 27) will be held from 22-26 July 2024, and I invite you all to attend and follow the progress. For FAO Members who are not yet COFO Members, I invite you to join. I am at your disposal, and I stand ready to facilitate the preparatory process towards an impactful COFO 27, addressing pressing environmental food security and economic challenges, but also looking for the solutions that forests can offer.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

**Mr Zhimin WU (Director, Forestry Division)**

I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to you on behalf of the Forestry Division of FAO (NFO), and probably some of you know me, but many of you don't know me yet. I am the new and not so new Director of the Forestry Division, I joined the Division last December, so a half year ago.

I take this opportunity to report that we are working on a new roadmap for forestry from vision to action, and we will share this text with Members in about two months' time so that we can together identify our priorities in the coming years towards 2031, and we can work together to contribute to the vision and mission of FAO and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, we will provide as much as possible, our technical support to Members of FAO.

**Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General)**

Just to join my voice to thank all the Members for the successful Committee on Forestry (COFO). I think we had some difficulties during the previous COFO, but the last one was successful, and I think it was due to the Members' collaboration and the strong guidance we received from our Members following the 15th World Forestry Congress held in South Korea - and also an important milestone to the new challenge you are facing as well as a new vision for the forest, - as my colleague said that you are trying, with support of the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry, what is a new vision for FAO's work on forests.

The forests and sustainable production of wood and non-wood initiative that was also started in Korea, has more and more countries being part of the FAO call for countries to join this initiative, and I think it will really contribute to the reduction of deforestation around the world.

And another important point is the work we are doing on forest fires. I think all of us have been affected in one way or another by forest fires, and to look at recommendations for FAO to strengthen its work in this domain and we are taking this in very serious consideration. I am sure we will report about this at the next COFO (COFO 27). Looking forward to a successful COFO and counting on your continued support. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can now move on to the draft conclusion. It will be projected on screen.

Item 12.4, *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry (3-7 October 2022)*.

1. The Conference endorsed the *Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry*. Any comments from the floor? If not, that concludes Agenda Sub-Item 12.4.

**Item 13. Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021), 49th (11-14 October 2021) and 50th (10-13 October and 19 December 2022) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**

- Point 13.**      **Rapports de la 48<sup>e</sup> session (session extraordinaire) (4 juin 2021), de la 49<sup>e</sup> session (11-14 octobre 2021) et de la 50<sup>e</sup> session (10-13 octobre et 19 décembre 2022) du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale**
- Tema 13.**      **Informes del 48.º período (extraordinario) de sesiones (4 de junio de 2021), el 49.º período de sesiones (11-14 de octubre de 2021) y el 50.º período de sesiones (10-13 de octubre y 19 de diciembre de 2022) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial**

## CHAIRPERSON

We move on to Item 13, *Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021), 49th (11-14 October 2021) and 50th (10-13 October and 19 December 2022) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*.

The introduction of the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) who joins me on stage now is Mr Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Orsorio, Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security from Spain, has been published on the Conference Web page.

The Council at its 168th Session considered the Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of CFS. The Council at its 172nd Session considered the Report of the 50th Session of CFS. According to the written inputs we have received which have been published on the Conference website, the Russian Federation disassociates itself from paragraph 10 (d) of the Report of the 50th Session of CFS.

### **Introduction to Item 13: Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021), 49th (11-14 October 2021) and 50th (10-13 October and 19 December 2022) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**

*H.E. Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Orsorio, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security*

The 48th (Special) Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was held virtually on 4 June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session was chaired by Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security from 2019-2021.

Under the only item on the agenda of the 48th (Special) Session, the Committee adopted the “CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition”. These policy recommendations are based on the 14th Report of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE-FSN) and their preparation concluded a process of policy convergence which started in 2019.

The Conference is invited to endorse the conclusions and recommendations of CFS 48, as well as to support the dissemination and utilization of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition.

It is also noted that in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit, a coalition was formed to promote knowledge and uptake of this policy agreement.

The 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) was held virtually from 11 to 14 October 2021. Over 1 300 participants registered, including 10 Ministers and 7 Vice-Ministers, and representatives from 122 Members and 9 non-Members of the Committee. The session was chaired by Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security from 2019-2021.

The Committee expressed deep concern about the alarming food security and nutrition outlined in the 2021 Report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. It also acknowledged the report’s emphasis on food systems transformation, which was considered essential to address the fact that more than 3 billion people were unable to afford healthy diets, and called for a systemic and holistic approach to food systems transformation.

The Committee welcomed the updated Issues Paper on the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition, prepared by the HLPE-FSN, and expressed concern over structural fragilities and injustices in contemporary food systems, exacerbated by the continuous impact of conflicts, diseases, poverty, inequalities, economic downturns and climate change. The Committee also requested continued deliberation on, and due attention to, the impacts of COVID-19 on food systems, agriculture and

nutrition at all stages of the implementation of the approved Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) workstreams.

In line with the Committee's focus on enhancing the impact of its policies in countries, one of the main items on the agenda of the 49th Session was a discussion on the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN). The Committee welcomed the concrete activities that had already been implemented by CFS stakeholders; reiterated the role of the VGFSyN as a tool to enhance policy coherence and address policy fragmentation across sectors; and re-affirmed that their use could foster and guide concrete actions to promote healthy diets through sustainable food systems.

The Committee also took stock of the use and application of two sets of CFS policy recommendations: (i) Food Security and Climate Change (CFS 39, 2012); and (ii) Water for Food Security and Nutrition (CFS 42, 2015). This review pointed to remaining challenges in these areas, including: insufficient data; inadequate attention to issues of governance, rights, and power relations; lack of integration of water and climate change and their impacts on food security and nutrition into national policies and programmes; and a lack of integration of major global initiatives on food, water, and climate change.

With regard to its work on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, the Committee reiterated the importance of organizing multi-stakeholder and inclusive consultations as a way to strengthen the ownership and success of the process, and for the Voluntary Guidelines to align with global, regional and national priorities, other relevant initiatives, good practices and experiences, in support of sustainable development.

The Committee also expressed appreciation for the HLPE-FSN report on "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems", and its findings and recommendations, which formed the basis for an agreed set of policy recommendations which were endorsed at CFS 50.

The Committee reviewed and updated its MYPoW for 2020-2023, which included workstreams on (i) Food systems and nutrition; (ii) Agroecological and other innovative approaches; (iii) Gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition; (iv) Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; (v) Data collection and analysis tools; and (vi) Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.

Finally, the Committee elected H. E. Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, to succeed Mr. Thanawat Tiensin as the Chairperson of the Committee.

The Conference is invited to take note of the progress made in the workstreams covered and endorse the Report of the 49th Session of the CFS.

CFS 50 was held in hybrid modality from 10-13 October, and on 19 December 2022.

Twenty-five Ministers and nine Vice-Ministers, representatives of 129 Members and 13 non-Members, as well as delegates from the UN system, financial institutions, civil society, research organizations, private sector associations and philanthropic foundations participated in the Session. The Session was chaired by H. E. Gabriel Ferrero y de Loma-Osorio, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, and Chairperson of the CFS.

Based on the CFS 50 Plenary agenda, Members and participants discussed and deliberated on the following topical issues for global food security and nutrition:

First, during a Ministerial-level Segment, the Committee expressed deep concern over the global food crisis, underlining that geopolitical instability and increasing conflicts undermined food security and nutrition and had a negative impact on agrifood systems, and called for strengthening coordinated global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the crisis, in line with the CFS reform document.

In this context, the Committee welcomed the High-Level Special Event co-convened on 18 July 2022 at the UN Headquarters in New York by the President of the General Assembly and the CFS entitled "Time to Act Together: Coordinating Global Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis" supported

by – and in support of – the UN Secretary-General’s Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.

Second, the CFS committed to prepare the next MYPoW 2024-2027, which was considered most critical for recovering from the crisis, progressing the transformation of food systems, and advancing the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Third, the Committee reiterated its support for an inclusive and consensus-based approach to achieve agreement on the “CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the context of Food Security and Nutrition” and called to conclude the work on the guidelines with a renewed approach and sense of shared responsibility.

Fourth, the Plenary called for greater collection, analysis and dissemination of data on all dimensions of food security and nutrition and concluded to take forward the CFS policy convergence process on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Tools for food security and nutrition.

Fifth, the Members endorsed new policy recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, and requested to promote their effective utilization and uptake at country level.

Last, the Plenary discussed how to contribute to boosting the means of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 by fostering responsible investment in sustainable agrifood systems, building on the experiences of the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, 10 years after the issuance of the guidance.

The Conference is invited to endorse the Report of the 50th Session of the CFS.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Agradecemos al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) por la presentación de estos 3 informes. Consideramos que la labor del CSA y sus recomendaciones de política constituyen un valioso insumo para abordar las crisis y los problemas relacionados con seguridad alimentaria y nutrición a nivel global. Colombia ha planteado en el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, el Derecho Humano a la Alimentación como una de las transformaciones centrales que permita que, de manera sostenible ambientalmente, todas las personas tengan una alimentación adecuada y saludable, que les permita tener una vida activa y sana, que contribuya a la ampliación de sus capacidades.

En el marco de este Plan de Desarrollo, Colombia se encuentra diseñando e implementando programas en diversos ámbitos que permitan lograr los objetivos planteados. Estos programas están relacionados con la disponibilidad, accesibilidad y adecuación de los alimentos, mejoras en la gobernanza, reforma rural, transformación del sector agropecuario, entre otros. Todo esto con un enfoque de derechos y soberanía alimentaria.

Teniendo en cuenta lo anterior, reiteramos nuestra disposición a seguir participando y aportando en los espacios de discusión para mostrar al mundo nuestros avances en estas iniciativas que permitirán hacer frente a las crisis multifacéticas que enfrenta el mundo.

Además, Colombia quisiera destacar, especialmente, la negociación de las Directrices Voluntarias para el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres y Niñas en el Marco de la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición, que se lleva a cabo en el marco del CSA. El empoderamiento de las mujeres y niñas es una prioridad para Colombia, y en concordancia con esto, hemos participado activamente en las negociaciones; esperamos que el proceso, abierto e inclusivo, de negociación permita acordar unas directrices que puedan ser aprobadas durante el 51° Periodo de Sesiones del CSA en octubre de este año.

También destacamos el trabajo del Comité en lo relativo al diseño de las Recomendaciones del CSA sobre políticas para la promoción de la participación y el empleo de los jóvenes en los sistemas



agrícolas y alimentarios en favor de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, que fueron aprobadas durante el 50º Periodo de Sesiones en octubre de 2022. Creemos que la participación de los jóvenes es fundamental para lograr las transformaciones necesarias en los sistemas alimentarios y que estas recomendaciones permitirán avanzar y mejorar las políticas regionales y globales en este sentido.

Esperamos que el CSA siga siendo un espacio de participación inclusivo y que de lugar a discusiones que nos permitan a todos avanzar hacia un mundo sin hambre.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America thanks the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and all its stakeholders for their work aimed at reversing negative trends in global food security towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger),” and endorses CFS’s 48th, 49th, and 50th Plenary Reports. There are several important items in these reports that we would like to highlight.

First and foremost, the United States of America welcomes the adoption of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, and the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition. These documents have the potential to support policy makers and implementors in addressing challenges that food systems across the world are facing, and we support their further dissemination and uptake.

While negotiation of the 50th Report required an additional session, it was essential that CFS unequivocally call out the war in Ukraine as one of the major drivers of the ongoing global food crisis. This was highlighted in the 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report and in many delegations’ statements.

Looking to the future, the United States of America calls on the CFS to be more efficient and to closely examine its processes. While we look forward to the adoption of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition at the CFS Plenary in October 2023, we believe the Committee must do better at streamlining its policy products if they are to be completed on time and, most importantly, if they are to be useful to policy makers and implementors.

This is why the United States of America strongly urges the CFS to institute strict parameters on the length of its policy products going forward – a direction that should be incorporated into the next Multi-Year Programme of Work that is set to be adopted at the upcoming Plenary.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

La Argentina desea reafirmar su compromiso con el trabajo del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y reitera su vocación para promover el acceso universal a dietas saludables, así como el desarrollo agrícola a través de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles.

En materia del avance de documentos, nos gustaría reconocer los aportes que presentan las Recomendaciones de Políticas sobre “Agroecología y otros enfoques innovadores” y “Promoción de la Participación y el Empleo de los Jóvenes en los Sistemas Agrícolas y Alimentarios”.

Igualmente, nos gustaría reiterar nuestro apoyo para la finalización de las negociaciones de las Directrices Voluntarias de Género en un marco de consenso que permita contemplar los diferentes abordajes y visiones nacionales sobre esta materia.

Por otro lado, en relación a las negociaciones sobre “Recomendaciones de Políticas para la Recolección y Análisis de Datos”, si bien encontramos valor en la propuesta, nos gustaría insistir en la importancia de evitar promover discusiones sobre gobernanza de datos y estandarización de indicadores y metodologías estadísticas ya que esta temática no es competencia del CSA y, en su lugar, forma parte del mandato de la Comisión de Estadísticas de las Naciones Unidas. En el contexto de la elaboración de un nuevo Plan de Trabajo Plurianual para el CSA, deseamos recordar: (i) la importancia de promover un programa que sea realista en materia de objetivos vis-à-vis tiempo disponible y que contemple las limitaciones de recursos humanos de Delegaciones pequeñas, (ii) la necesidad de limitar las negociaciones de documentos a un solo producto por año y (iii) la inclusión de temáticas que se encuentren dentro del mandato y capacidades técnicas del Comité.

Adicionalmente, nos gustaría referirnos también a la necesidad de que el CSA utilice lenguaje y conceptos multilateralmente acordados, en especial aquellos consensuados en la Agenda 2030 y en FAO, a la hora de promover documentos o textos borradores de negociación. Esta simple práctica, según nuestro entendimiento, facilitará y agilizará los trabajos del comité.

Como mensaje final, nos gustaría alentar a que el CSA se enfoque en sus ventajas comparativas y mandato específico a la hora de promover iniciativas; ello, a fin de evitar desviaciones inconvenientes en sus actividades programáticas.

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation supports the adoption of the Reports of the 48th and 49th Sessions of the CFS. We note the role of the Committee as an inclusive and intergovernmental platform for bringing together and harmonizing policies and strategies to support country-led measures aimed at ensuring food security. At the same time, however, we regret that a number of countries have politicized the work of the Committee, thereby preventing the timely adoption of the Report of its 50th Session. The Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraph 10 (d) of the Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, as in its work on this paragraph, the Committee exceeded its own mandate, and that of FAO in general, by qualifying the conflict in Ukraine.

The Russian Federation draws attention to the persistent unwillingness of CFS leadership to discuss the impact of unilateral sanctions on food security. Ignoring the proposal by a group of countries supported by the Civil Society and Indigenous People's Mechanism to include a briefing on this topic in the Committee's Multi-Year Programme of Work 2024-2027 is evidence of this.

We welcome the Committee's adoption of CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition and urge FAO to promote their use at the country level.

We are confident that despite the difficult negotiation process, we will be able to reach an agreement by consensus within the Committee's mandate on the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, to be adopted at the 51st Session of the CFS. We note the importance of the Committee's work to collect, analyse and disseminate data on food security and nutrition, and the consultation on the development of CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening FSN Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition.

We support the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia expresses its appreciation to the Chairpersons of the 48th, 49th and 50th Plenary Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and we also extend our thanks to the Committee Secretariat. We endorse the findings and recommendations of the Reports of the CFS in full.

Australia continues to be deeply concerned by the ongoing global food security crisis. Countries around the world continue to face the burden of rising hunger driven by, inter alia, the challenges of climate change, rising cost of living and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and conflicts, particularly Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

This context makes it even more important for the CFS and its stakeholders to continue to work together efficiently and purposefully, to support country-led processes to improve food security and nutrition, including through the development of voluntary policy guidance and recommendations.

Sustainable agrifood systems, which are resilient to global shocks, depend on a commitment to open markets and rules-based international trade and continued collaboration to promote enhanced agricultural innovation. To achieve our Zero Hunger goal, average global agricultural productivity needs to increase by 28 percent over the next decade. This is triple the increase achieved over the past decade. It will be important for the CFS to ensure that appropriate science and evidence-based agricultural extension and advice, sensitive to specific national contexts and priorities, is accessible to farmers and other stakeholders to help build more sustainable, resilient and productive agrifood systems.

We look forward to the finalisation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, and the development of concrete and useful policy recommendations as part of the data workstream, to allow for the successful and timely conclusion of the 2020-23 Multi Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

As we now work towards the development of the next MYPoW for 2024-2027, we reiterate the need to ensure that CFS products are demand-driven and respond to the needs of agrifood systems stakeholders, are fit-for-purpose, informed by scientific evidence, and appropriate to the contexts, needs and priorities of each country and region.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 8:45*

Switzerland wishes to comment the following points that the CFS brings to the attention of the Conference. Firstly, on the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches adopted during CFS 48 in June 2021:

- The Policy Recommendations provide guidance to countries and stakeholders in strengthening agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and acknowledge the need for a holistic and systemic food systems approach. Switzerland considers agroecology as a major pathway towards sustainable food systems;
- Therefore, Switzerland supported the mandate to the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and welcomed the Panel's science and evidence-based report on "Agroecological and other approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition" as a solid basis for this policy convergence process;
- Unfortunately, the content of the recommendations adopted barely incorporates the main findings and recommendations of the HLPE report. It has never been the case that the CFS diverges so much from the science-based work of the HLPE and we regret that the science-policy interface, established through the CFS reform document, has been weakened.
- Furthermore, we wish to bring to the attention of the Conference that the Agroecology Coalition set up in the aftermath of the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) is currently tracking the implementation of the respective Policy Recommendations in 10 countries in Africa and Asia.

Secondly, on the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems during CFS 50 in October 2022:

- Switzerland strongly believes that the young ones – the producers and consumers of today and tomorrow – must be an integral part of the design-process of our future food systems;

- We therefore welcome the Policy Recommendations on Youth Engagement that are well targeted and solutions focused;
- The process of drafting and negotiating the policy recommendations is evidence that the multi-stakeholder approach of CFS works and that ordinary young farmers and agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can have a positive and constructive influence in international multilateral processes;
- Switzerland strongly encourages FAO to play an active role in the use, implementation and dissemination of these Policy Recommendations.

Lastly, Switzerland believes that the CFS is a unique inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The CFS is essential and has to play its specific role in the global context of food security and nutrition. The collaboration and coordination with other initiatives, such as the UNFSS follow-up process, or the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), (who should play an important role in translating CFS products into action through, for example, the national pathways), remains key to achieve food security and nutrition for all, leaving no one behind.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes the Reports of the 48th, 49th and 50th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as well as the associated Council decisions at its 172nd and 168th Sessions.

Canada would like to echo the Council findings regarding the importance of the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, and encouraged the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and other relevant actors to support their application at country level. Youth engagement in agrifood systems is a critical step in fostering a more inclusive and sustainable food system.

Canada has long placed gender equality at the heart of its policies, and places women and girls at the centre of its international assistance. We recognize that advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment is critical in addressing food insecurity. We encourage the CFS to continue its efforts to achieve consensus on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, as an important tool for driving greater equality, as a pillar of the CFS mandate.

Canada supports the CFS in increasing its focus on voluntary uptake, including in promoting its products, and encouraged the RBAs to encourage the dissemination and use of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines to help increase their impact. Canada encourages the CFS to continue efforts to make linkages to other stakeholders across the UN system and other food system actors to increase awareness and engagement with the work of the CFS and help it deliver on its mandate.

## **NEW ZEALAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 11:00*

New Zealand has been an active Member of the CFS.

We fully support endorsement and implementation of the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

We also fully support completion of the draft Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment and see these as an essential part of the suite of CFS documents.

We are also deeply concerned over the global food security crisis as outlined in the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2022 Report and in particular the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which is totally unacceptable and we join many delegations in calling for Russia to stop its war.

New Zealand supports the endorsement of the Report of the CFS.

## **GERMANY**

*Submitted Wednesday 14 June 2023, 15:17*

Germany aligns itself with the Statement by the European Union and its Member States. Global food security and nutrition as well as realizing the right to adequate food remain the most pressing issues of the 21st century, as well as a shared responsibility of the international community. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine further aggravates the already difficult situation.

The global food supply system must be strengthened without fuelling other crises, such as the climate or biodiversity crisis. Global food security and nutrition, climate change mitigation and biodiversity must be brought in line with one another. In doing so, we need the transformation to sustainable and resilient global food systems to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right to adequate food.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) can and should play an important role in coordinating policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the global food crisis as well as in advancing the transformation of food systems. Through the Committee's function as the foremost intergovernmental and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform, governments and non-state actors are invited to come and work together to promote food security and nutrition, based on the human right to adequate food. This is why the CFS and its policy products – if endorsed by all stakeholders – are unique in the UN system.

We very much believe that the CFS's inclusive approach and the farreaching ownership of its voluntary guidelines and policy recommendations can and should contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) follow-up process, for example through helping to enrich and implement National Pathways, highlighting the importance of human rights-based approaches.

The Federal Government of Germany will therefore further strengthen the CFS in the future, in particular through additional financial support for the CFS's work. We call on all CFS Members to help improve the funding base of CFS and to contribute to a more diversified resource base. We appreciate the CFS Chairperson's powerful commitment to CFS and we thank Mr Gabriel Ferrero for chairing our international multi-stakeholder conference "Policies against Hunger" on 27-28 June 2023, in Berlin.

We welcome FAO's and the Rome-based Agencies' (RBAs) previous support to the CFS. The continued support is of utmost importance for the well-functioning of this unique Committee and its policy products. Their support is also key when it comes to implementing CFS products. While implementation is primarily the responsibility of Members, we encourage the CFS to set up an inclusive process to discuss how to foster efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS policy products. Germany welcomes the Reports of the last three CFS Sessions.

We stand ready to further engage with the RBAs and all other actors to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustainable food systems.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

### **Key messages:**

- Welcome the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches and the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems, and support the implementation of these recommendations and all other CFS products.
- Encourage FAO and the RBAs in general to promote the uptake and use of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines.
- Look forward to the finalization of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security, as well as the CFS Policy

Recommendations on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition, and reiterate commitment to ensure the adoption of ambitious documents at the 51st Session of CFS (CFS 51).

- Highlight the important role of High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE).
- Endorse the Reports of the 48th (Special), 49th and 50th Sessions of the CFS.

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

First of all, we would like to thank the former and current CFS Chairpersons, Mr Thanawat Tiensin and Mr Gabriel Ferrero, for their inclusive leadership and extensive efforts, and their overall commitment to the CFS.

The EU and its Member States are committed to working together with the CFS, highlighting its important role as the foremost inclusive, multi-stakeholder, intergovernmental platform for promoting world food security and nutrition, as well as sustainable food systems, and for coordinating global policy responses to the multiple dimensions of the food crisis, contributing to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right to adequate food. We welcome the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches, and support the implementation of these recommendations and all other CFS products. We encourage FAO and the RBAs to promote the further uptake and use of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines. We stress that it is primarily the responsibility of CFS Members to promote the implementation of CFS products. The EU and its Member States appreciate the findings of the 49th Session of CFS. We refer to, in particular, the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as a useful tool to promote sustainable and resilient food systems and the call on FAO and the RBAs to strengthen their support to the CFS as a symbol of joint ownership, shared commitment and effective RBA collaboration.

In addition, we would like to stress the important role of the HLPE, as an indispensable network of experts on food security and nutrition, which provides evidence-based analyses facilitating policy debates and informing exchanges between CFS Members and stakeholders.

With regard to the conclusions of the 50th Session of the CFS, we reiterate our great concern regarding the negative global trends of increased food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms, as outlined in the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) reports. The reports clearly show that we are not on track to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

Global food security and nutrition were already under pressure owing to poverty, economic inequalities and slowdowns, conflicts, the climate and biodiversity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other factors. The food crisis has been further exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which has resulted in soaring food prices and disrupted global food value chains, including global food commodities, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. We reiterate our commitment to striving for a world free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition. In this context, we refer to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and call for a renewed global commitment in view of next year's 20th anniversary of the guidelines and the ongoing global food crisis.

Moreover, we reiterate our appreciation for the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition, and welcome the fact that the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism has joined the consensus.

The EU and its 27 Member States reiterate their commitment to finalising the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition and their subsequent endorsement at CFS 51.

Finally, we look forward to the CFS Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition. We are committed to working together with all CFS Members and stakeholders to ensure the adoption of an ambitious document at CFS 51.

With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States endorse the Reports of the 48th (Special), 49th and 50th Sessions of the CFS.

## **JAPAN**

*Submitted Friday 16 June 2023, 13:02*

In addition to the impacts of conflicts, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has exacerbated the already challenging global food situation in the world.

Under these circumstances, at the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki (G7 AMM), Japan, in April this year, it was confirmed that with the objective to ensure agricultural sustainability, it is important to (1) achieve both productivity growth and sustainability in agriculture, (2) make sustainable use of the existing domestic agricultural resources each country possesses, and (3) disseminate and utilize innovations on the ground.

In addition, at the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, the G7 leaders issued the "G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué" and published the "Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security" with the invited countries, which are in reference to the concerted actions that will be taken to address the global food crisis, and work together to build a resilient, sustainable and inclusive agriculture and food systems. The importance of them is also recognized at the G7 AMM held prior to the Summit.

Japan will contribute to ensuring the global food security via the CFS efforts, based on the concept that the access to affordable, safe and nutritious food is a basic human need, as referred to in the Hiroshima Actions Statement. We place women and youth at the core of developing sustainable food systems and that it is our responsibility to pass on sustainable food systems as our legacy to the next generation. In this light, we welcome the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition endorsed by CFS 50.

Action is already underway. For example, at G7 AMM, youth was positioned as one of its core elements. The ministerial had "Dialogue with high school students" as an official programme where high school students in the host area had a discourse with the G7 Ministers to present their proposals on food and agriculture in the future. In the run-up to the G7 AMM, the students conducted the exchange of ideas and views on the topic with high school students from the other G7 countries. We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the FAO Liaison Office in Japan for its significant contribution to organize the event.

We are committed to continuing such initiatives and strive to incorporate the voices of the youth, who will shape the future, into policy-development.

## **CHILE**

*Presentado el viernes 16 de junio 2023 a las 11.09*

Chile en su calidad de Estado parte del Consejo de la FAO, ha hecho suyo los informes de los Comités que se presentan para esta Conferencia. Sobre el particular desea remitir algunos comentarios.

Chile quisiera instar a los Estados a trabajar coordinada y decididamente en:

- Fortalecer las acciones multilaterales conjuntas y coordinadas para hacer frente a la crisis alimentaria mundial.
- Profunda preocupación por la crisis de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y las cifras consignadas en la edición de 2022 del informe SOFI.
- Particular importancia a las medidas que fomenten la participación y el empleo de los jóvenes en los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios en favor de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición" como marco normativo mundial clave acordado a nivel intergubernamental, de carácter voluntario y no vinculante, en apoyo de los esfuerzos dirigidos por los países con vistas a lograr la seguridad alimentaria y afianzar la nutrición, y la solicitud de que se promuevan su utilización y su adopción efectivas a escala nacional. - - Reconocimiento de los esfuerzos del CSA reconocimiento por el Comité de que fomentar

la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas es decisivo para hacer frente a la actual crisis de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y aplicar el derecho a una alimentación adecuada. En particular mujeres y niñas rurales y que se desempeñan en labores de Agricultura Familiar Campesina y Agricultura de Subsistencia.

*Response from Secretariat  
Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría*

Colombia

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat takes note of the central role of the right to adequate food as well as of food security and nutrition in the National Development Plan developed by Colombia.

We welcome the active engagement of Colombia in the negotiations for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition and the Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.

United States of America

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the acknowledgement by the United States of America of the importance and the potential of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Youth and of the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition.

We stress the importance of setting clear parameters with regards to topics, processes and policy outcomes to be included in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) currently under preparation and which is expected to be endorsed by the Plenary in October 2023.

Argentina

The CFS Secretariat welcome the commitment to the work of the Committee expressed by Argentina as well as the support provided to the development of the Policy Recommendations on Youth and on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches as well as on the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender.

We take note of the comment on the need to develop a realistic MYPoW considering workload, resources and identifying relevant topics in line with CFS' added value and comparative advantages.

The Russian Federation

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the acknowledgment of the CFS's role as an inclusive and intergovernmental platform and takes note of the disassociation of the Russian Federation from paragraph 10(d) of the Report of the 50th Session of the CFS.

We welcome the support to the endorsement of the Policy Recommendation on Youth and note the request to promote their use at country level. The positive comments regarding the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender and the Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches and on the Policy Recommendations on Strengthening FSN Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition are noted.

Australia

The CFS Secretariat shares the view of the importance of working together and strengthening coordinated actions to address the global food crises and to enhance country-led responses, with short- and medium-term solutions that go hand in hand with long term and sustainable transformation of food systems.

The point concerning the need to ensure that CFS policy outcomes are demand-driven, informed by scientific evidence and appropriate to different contexts, needs and priorities, is acknowledged.

Switzerland



The CFS Secretariat acknowledges the comments on the Policy Recommendations on Agroecological and other Innovative Approaches and the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) report produced on this topic as well as on the need to strengthen the linkages between CFS policy convergence work and the science-based contributions of the HLPE-FSN.

We welcome the positive comments regarding the content and the potential of the Policy Recommendations on Youth as well as on the inclusive process that led to their endorsement at CFS 50. The point concerning the need to promote their use and application at country level is noted.

The CFS Secretariat stresses the importance of strengthening collaboration with or leveraging existing food security and nutrition multi-stakeholder platforms and institutions to implement coordinated actions and interventions to address malnutrition in all its forms, with particular attention to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

#### Canada

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the positive comments on the potential of the Policy Recommendations on Youth as well as on the need for all relevant actors to promote their application at country level.

We further welcome the recognition of the need to advance gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment as a key step towards addressing food insecurity and malnutrition and the support that Canada provided in the finalization of the negotiations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on this matter.

The CFS Secretariat underlines the increasing attention by CFS stakeholders on promoting dissemination and use of CFS policy tools at country level and takes note of the suggestion to strengthen linkages and partnerships with relevant stakeholders to increase CFS impact on the ground.

#### New Zealand

The CFS Secretariat thanks New Zealand for its active engagement in the work of CFS and for serving as a member of the Bureau for the current biennium.

We note the support provided for the endorsement of the Policy Recommendations on Youth as well as the intention to support their implementation.

We acknowledge the support provided by New Zealand in the finalization of the negotiations of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender.

#### Germany

The CFS Secretariat appreciates Germany's active engagement in the work of CFS and its commitment to further strengthening CFS through additional financial support.

We note the request to further promote CFS's inclusive approach and policy outcomes including through contributing to the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up process.

The CFS Secretariat takes note of the encouragement to set up an inclusive process to discuss how to foster efforts to increase global awareness and use of CFS policy products.

#### European Union

The CFS Secretariat thanks the European Union (EU) for its active engagement in the work of the CFS.

We note the EU's comment on the importance of the HLPE-FSN in providing evidence-based analyses, facilitating policy-debates and informing exchanges between CFS Members and stakeholders.

The CFS Secretariat thanks the EU for its positive comments on the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as a useful tool to promote sustainable and resilient food systems and the call on FAO and the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) to continue supporting the CFS as a symbol of joint ownership, shared commitment and effective RBA collaboration.

#### Japan

The CFS Secretariat welcomes the “G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué” and “Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security”.

We would like to thank Japan for its commitment to contribute to ensuring global food security through the CFS and note its ongoing initiatives towards the implementation of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Youth.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Before we move to conclusions, do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item?

#### **Mr Purna Cita NUGRAHA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia endorses the Reports of 48th, 49th and 50th Sessions of CFS, and in particular welcomes the approval of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) policy recommendations on youth, and encourages the use of CFS agreed policy products by all stakeholders in accordance with national contexts, priorities, and capacities.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Other Members that wish to take the floor? Then we move to the conclusion, and I ask to put that up on the screen, and I will read the draft conclusion.

Item 13, *Reports of the 48th (Special) (4 June 2021), 49th (11-14 October 2021) and 50th (10-13 October and 19 December 2022) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.*

1. The Conference endorsed the Reports of the 48th Special, 49th and 50th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, CFS.

The footnote reads as follows: *"The Russian Federation disassociates itself from paragraph 10 (d) of the Report of the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security."*

I look around the room to see if there are any Members that wish to say something on this conclusion. I hammer it off, so we conclude.

That is the conclusion for Agenda Item 13. I now give you the floor to respond to that.

#### **Sr. Gabriel FERRERO DE LOMA OSORIO (Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)**

Quería decir unas breves palabras de agradecimiento en la Conferencia a todos los Estados Miembros y a todos los Miembros del Comité por su compromiso y su participación en estos tiempos particularmente difíciles para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Particularmente quería agradecer en esta Conferencia a los copresidentes, relatores y facilitadores de los procesos de negociación en este período. Representantes permanentes de Nigeria, Suiza, Panamá, Finlandia, República Dominicana, Sudáfrica y Kenia por todo su compromiso y apoyo.

Quería también reconocer por la particularidad del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) el compromiso y las contribuciones de los mecanismos de la sociedad civil y pueblos indígenas, el sector privado; la contribución de todas las agencias, programas y fondos de las Naciones Unidas, además, por supuesto, de las basadas en Roma; de las Fundaciones, de la Academia y también dar la bienvenida a nuevos participantes en el grupo asesor, como son las Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos (CGLU) y el Decenio para la Agricultura Familiar (UNDAFF).

Quería también hacer notar que el informe de las sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria última ha sido también ya presentado como es prescriptivo a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas a través del Consejo Económico y Social (ECOSOC) en la Sesión del 7 de junio celebrada en Nueva York.

Quería terminar simplemente, por supuesto, invitándoles a participar en la Sesión ministerial y en el resto de la semana del plenario del 52.º Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que tendrá lugar la última semana de octubre donde esperamos endosar las nuevas directrices voluntarias sobre igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres y de las niñas en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria

mundial recientemente acordadas en el proceso de negociación, así como las recomendaciones de política sobre datos y el nuevo Programa multianual de 2024 a 2027 del Comité.

#### CHAIRPERSON

Secretary, would you like to add something, please go ahead.

#### Mr Hemrich GUENTER (Secretary ad interim of Committee on World Food Security)

I would just like to add the thanks also of the Secretariat to all Members for their active contributions during the Sessional as well as the inter-sessional work and we are looking forward to building together a very strong MyPoW (Multiyear Programme of Work) for the next four years.

- Item 16. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme**  
**Point 16. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO**  
**Tema 16. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO**

#### CHAIRPERSON

Dear colleagues, we are making quite a bit of progress here, and I will propose that we just continue with that, and that means that we move into Item 16, *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*, which focuses on the World Food Programme Annual Performance Reports for the years 2020 and 2021, and those documents read *C 2023/INF/8* and *C 2023/INF/9*.

I also welcome the colleagues from WFP online. The introduction of Mr Laurent Bukera, Director Corporate Planning and Performance Division of WFP has been published on the Conference web page.

#### Introduction to Item 16: United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

*Laurent Bukera, Director, Corporate Planning and Performance Division, WFP*

The World Food Programme (WFP) performance highlights summarized below reflect the findings presented in the organization's 2020 and 2021 Annual Performance Reports (APR)<sup>1</sup>, discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during the Annual sessions in June 2020 and 2021, respectively.

#### Global Context

COVID-19 unleashed the worst global health emergency in the past century in 2020 and caused the deepest global recession in generations, reversing decades of progress against poverty, inequality and hunger. In 2021, the continued effects of COVID-19, compounded by increased conflict, climate shocks and worldwide rises in the cost of living, resulted in unprecedented increases in hunger and malnutrition. In 80 countries where WFP had an operational presence, acute malnutrition almost doubled compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, while a record 45 million people were at grave risk of famine. Significant increases in food and fuel prices and supply chain disruptions continued to severely affect people's access to food and pushed WFP's food procurement costs up by 36 percent compared to 2019.

WFP swiftly responded to the increasingly challenging context by scaling up emergency response, providing surge capacity to its field offices, ensuring the continuity of existing humanitarian and resilience operations, and expanding its provision of common services to support the entire United Nations system and other partners, to transport and medically evacuate staff and deliver essential supplies. WFP managed eight Level 3 and 11 Level 2 emergency operations in 2021<sup>2</sup>, up from six Level 3 and 10 Level 2 emergency operations in 2020, illustrating the pandemic's effect at worsening

<sup>1</sup> WFP's Annual Performance Report (APR) is the main annual accountability report that presents WFP's achievements and challenges for the reporting year. The APR provides aggregated results on WFP's global performance describing who we assist, how we assist them, how funds are being used, and what results have been achieved.

APR 2020: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/annual-performance-report-2020>

APR 2021: <https://www.wfp.org/publications/annual-performance-report-2021>

<sup>2</sup> Under WFP's current Corporate Alert System (CAS) framework, the new classifications for L3 and L2 are "Corporate Scale-up Emergency" and "Corporate Attention Emergency" respectively.

already precarious vulnerabilities and acting as a compounding factor in conflicts, economic downturns, and extreme weather events. Despite the increasing complexity of responding to such crises going into 2021, WFP provided timely life-saving assistance, particularly in Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen, where people in some areas faced famine-like conditions.

### **WFP's reach**

Responding to these increasing needs, WFP and its partners directly reached<sup>3</sup> a record 128.2 million people in 2021, 11 percent more women, girls, boys and men than the 115.5 million people reached in 2020. These two years saw year-over-year increases slightly higher than the 9 percent average annual growth in the number of beneficiaries assisted during the five years of the WFP strategic plan for 2017- 2021. However, the increase in the number of beneficiaries outpaced the increase in in-kind food and cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers, which, after remaining stable from 2019 to 2020, increased from 4.2 million metric tonnes of food and USD 2.1 billion in cash-based transfers (CBT) and commodity vouchers in 2020 to 4.4 million metric tonnes and USD 2.3 billion, respectively, in 2021. In the context of record food and fuel price inflation and a sharp increase in needs, WFP stretched its resources and prioritized providing assistance to a large number of people by reducing the size of rations or the duration of assistance.

### **Programme Results**

WFP worked with its many partners to respond to record levels of food insecurity by delivering emergency food, cash-based and nutrition assistance, reinforcing national social protection systems and strengthening the resilience of communities. WFP increased two years in a row the number of beneficiaries reached through general food assistance, reaching 91 million people in 2021. Globally, 23.5 million people – primarily children and pregnant and lactating women and girls – benefitted from WFP programmes for the treatment or prevention of malnutrition in 2021, an increase of 30 percent from 2020, reflecting WFP's vital role in 2020 and especially 2021 in responding to the increased global prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition. Approximately 15 million school children were assisted with nutritious meals, school snacks or take-home rations each year in 2020 and 2021. This represents a 13 percent reduction from 2019, reflecting both progress in moving school-based programmes to national ownership as well as significant pandemic-related challenges such as school closures, funding restrictions, and security and access issues. As part of WFP's work on lessening the impact of future crises, WFP provided assistance to 8.7 million people through asset creation and livelihood activities in 2021, 2 million people through climate insurance or anticipatory actions, and more than 405 000 people through its smallholder agricultural market support programmes.

### **Collaboration with Rome-based Agencies**

After consolidating collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies in previous years, 2020 and 2021 saw relationships further strengthened and progress achieved in delivering results. Areas of collaboration included the global Food Security Cluster, peacebuilding, early warning systems, resilience and social cohesion, rural women's economic empowerment, micro-insurance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and COVID-19 impact assessments, among others. 2021 also marked the completion of the first phase of the joint programme on rural women's economic empowerment, implemented in seven countries by FAO, IFAD, WFP and others, which, since its inception in 2014, has stimulated increases in agricultural production, generating millions (USD) in sales for individuals and households.

### **Financial resources**

WFP, as a voluntarily funded organization, has been able to achieve the reported results due to the support provided by the WFP Executive Board, donors and resource partners. In 2021, donors responded to unprecedented needs by increasing their contributions to a record USD 9.6 billion –15 percent more than in 2020 (USD 8.4 billion)– against funding needs of USD 14.8 billion, meeting 65 percent of requirements, slightly higher than in 2020. While WFP's ten largest donors accounted for

<sup>3</sup> WFP estimates the number of people provided with direct assistance through in-kind food distributions, cash-based transfers (CBT), commodity vouchers and individual capacity strengthening.

79 percent of contributions in 2021, WFP made progress in both 2020 and 2021 in diversifying its funding bases through partnerships with national governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), and the private sector, increasing its share of flexible funding in the process as well.

Direct expenditures in 2021, excluding indirect support costs, totalled USD 8.6 billion. While both 2020 and 2021 saw an increased share of funds being allocated to crisis response (a similar trend as in previous years, reaching 85 percent in 2021), the level of expenditures on resilience building and root causes continued to increase. This reflects the growing humanitarian needs being met by WFP in line with its commitment to saving lives, and WFP's efforts in maintaining progress on preventative activities for building resilience and addressing root causes to lessen the impact of future crises.

Results reported in the APRs for 2020 and 2021 demonstrate WFP's efforts in addressing the life-saving needs of women, men, boys and girls caught up in emergencies, as well as preparing communities to withstand disasters, and restoring livelihoods in post-crisis environments. With complex conflicts and climate-driven emergencies on the rise, the global requirements for WFP's assistance together with its funding needs, continue to grow.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation takes note of the WFP annual reports for 2020 and 2021. We note WFP's activities as part of collective international efforts in the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We underscore the achievements in expanding the donor base and mobilizing financial resources, notably raising a record USD 9.6 billion.

We support improving emergency aid mechanisms, including through methods such as food voucher distribution, food for work and converting public debt into food assistance programmes, including school feeding programmes. We highlight the pandemic – along with major Western economies' myopic economic, food and energy policies and illegal unilateral measures – as the driving force behind the world's worsening food situation. The Russian Federation reaffirms its readiness to cooperate with WFP, both in terms of geographical expansion and forms of assistance.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

The United Kingdom (UK) appreciates the opportunity to review the World Food Programme (WFP) 2020 and 2021 Annual Performance Reports (APR), while recognising that these documents have already been approved by the WFP Executive Board during the last two years and we therefore do not have specific comments on them at this point. Nevertheless, we would like to take the opportunity to note the impact of a worsening global situation that has included a pandemic on global food security, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The 2020 APR noted that 270 million people in the world were food insecure; in 2021, 238 million people were facing acute hunger - a 90 percent increase compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The 2022 APR is due to be approved by the WFP Executive Board at its annual session at the end of June 2023, just before the FAO Conference. According to the report, at the beginning of 2022, the world already faced the worst hunger and humanitarian catastrophe in more than 70 years, with a record 349 million people acutely hungry. The UK stands ready to continue supporting WFP in their efforts to meet unparalleled food security needs across the globe and we encourage ever better collaboration between WFP and FAO in responding to emergency and humanitarian needs, but also in strengthening anticipatory action.

## **MOROCCO**

*Submitted Tuesday 19 June 2023, 11:06*

Le Maroc aborde ce point de l'ordre du jour, au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique. Le contexte opérationnel des Nations Unies en général a été marqué par de multiples crises consécutives au cours des dernières années, ce qui a pour effet d'inverser les tendances positives de progrès accomplis pour l'atteinte des ODD, notamment l'ODD 2 la faim zéro. De nouveau, la faim est constante augmentation, touchant plus de 690 millions de personne, soit environ une personne sur neuf, dans plus de 79 pays à travers le monde. Les chocs ne cessent de se succéder, notamment en Afrique, ou les sécheresses, les inondations, les déplacements forcés, les différentes invasions d'insectes et de pestes, ainsi que les chocs économiques, dont notamment l'augmentation de l'inflation ont fortement impactés la situation de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans plusieurs pays africains, les ménages rencontrent des difficultés à avoir accès aux aliments, parfois même aux marchés alimentaires, et ont recours à des mécanismes nocifs d'adaptation aux crises, comme sauter des repas, ou encore se priver d'alimentation pour pouvoir assurer la subsistance des enfants.

La situation est préoccupante, et au vu des derniers développements, ainsi que des dernières informations fournies par la FAO et le PAM notamment, une amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire à court terme n'est pas plausible. Pour le Groupe Régional Afrique, le seul moyen de faire face à ces nombreux défis, aux fins d'accélérer l'atteinte de l'ODD 2, c'est la collaboration entre les différentes Agences des Nations Unies, notamment celles Basées à Rome (RBA), dont le mandat est centré sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire. Le GRA estime que les ODD ne peuvent être atteints grâce aux efforts d'une seule entité des Nations Unies, et qu'il est impératif de briser les silos, comme cela a été demandé par le Secrétaire Général en 2021, afin d'encourager les synergies pour ne laisser personne de côté. En ce sens, le GRA appelle les différentes agences à partager les données collectées au niveau local, national, et régional, avec tous les autres partenaires, afin d'aider à dresser un aperçu précis des réalités dans les différents pays, notamment en Afrique. Les efforts de partage d'information permettraient non seulement d'améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de la programmation, mais aussi d'optimiser les coûts du monitoring et de collecte de données, car le GRA estime que tout gain d'efficience pourrait être réinvesti dans des programmes visant à sauver des vies ou à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire des populations dans le besoin.

Par ailleurs, nous aimerions lancer un appel aux trois OSR, de mettre le développement de la résilience, notamment des petits exploitants africains, aux cœurs de leurs efforts et préoccupations. Le GRA estime que le renforcement de la résilience, et des capacités des populations est le seul vrai moyen de sortir les différentes populations du cercle vicieux de dépendance aux aides humanitaires, car c'est la crise structurelle principale qu'il faudrait adresser pour être en mesure d'atteindre les ODD.

Bien que nous comprenions qu'il est urgent de répondre aux différentes crises conjoncturelles, nous estimons que si les crises structurelles sont reléguées au second plan, les efforts de la communauté internationale en général, et ceux des trois OSR en particulier, resteront vaines. Une collaboration efficace entre les OSR, dans le respect du mandat de chacun, et en tirant profit des avantages comparatifs de chaque agence, reste le moyen le plus efficace pour renforcer la résilience dans les zones d'intervention notamment en Afrique, continent souffrant du plus grand nombre de crises de grandes envergures.

Pour ce faire, le Groupe Régional Afrique aimerait recommander les pistes de travail suivantes, que nous estimons être les plus importantes et les plus urgentes :

- 1) Renforcer les capacités institutionnelles des Etats, au lieu de créer de nouveaux systèmes. Cela permettrait d'optimiser les coûts opérationnels, tout en mettant à disposition des Etats les moyens de faire face aux crises futures ;
- 2) Favoriser l'émancipation et le développement des capacités de la femme africaine, en prenant en considération les défis auxquels elle fait face ;
- 3) Mettre les petits exploitants au cœur de la planification et de la programmation. Nous estimons que les petits exploitants, notamment en Afrique ont le potentiel de nourrir le continent, voir même le monde, s'ils disposent de l'assistance adéquate pour renforcer leur résilience. Pour ce faire nous appelons les OSR à mettre à leurs dispositions des solutions adaptées, basées sur leurs réalités et leurs besoins ;

- 4) Prioriser des programmations communes au niveau des pays et des régions, afin d'optimiser l'utilisation des ressources financières ;
- 5) Impliquer le secteur privé notamment africain dans les programmes ;
- 6) Favoriser les achats locaux ou régionaux, notamment en provenance des petits exploitants, dans le cadre des opérations humanitaires d'urgences ;
- 7) Et pour finir, axer la communication institutionnelle des OSR sur les success stories, afin de montrer la voie, et de partager les expériences positives, qui pourraient potentiellement être dupliquer dans des contextes similaires.

Pour conclure, le Groupe Régional Afrique tient à remercier les OSR pour les efforts déjà entrepris, notamment dans le cadre de la planification commune au Sahel, et nous tenons à réitérer que nous nous tenons prêt à les soutenir dans tout effort à mettre en œuvre pour l'accélération de l'atteinte des ODD.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The World Food Programme (WFP) welcomes the statement of support of the Russian Federation to WFP's work in improving mechanisms to provide emergency care, including through the distribution of food vouchers and school-based programmes as well as other methods.

WFP welcomes the United Kingdom's commitment to support WFP and the attention it has brought to anticipatory action. WFP continues to prioritize opportunities to collaborate with its Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) counterparts and looks forward to signing a new Memorandum of Understanding in 2023.

In addition, WFP is pleased to underline that another forthcoming leading example of Rome-based Agencies collaboration would be the upcoming 2023 release of the [State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World 2023](#) report. This should be formally released by FAO in the next two weeks.

We would like to thank Morocco and the Africa Regional Group for these important recommendations.

We agree that collaboration and partnerships are central for impactful and sustainable resilience programmes. In today's volatile world characterized by increasingly complex drivers of risk and multifaceted shocks and stressors, it is beyond the capacity of any single actor to build resilience. Bringing together complementary expertise and resources of the RBAs to deliver multi-sectoral and multi-level interventions are therefore essential for effective resilience programming.

The RBAs are WFP's main United Nations partners for joint-resilience programmes under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF), focusing in particular on smallholder farmers and fragile food. In 2015, WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed a Conceptual Framework for collaboration and partnership on "Strengthening Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition", which guided the elaboration of WFP's 2015 Resilience Policy and continues to provide the broader intervention framework to the three agencies' resilience interventions.

As highlighted by Morocco and the Africa Regional Group, partnerships among the RBAs offer complementary skillsets based on mandate, expertise and local presence to achieve maximum impact:

- WFP targets the most food-insecure people through Food Assistance For Assets interventions, providing food and cash transfers to cover households' immediate food needs so they can dedicate time to building assets that reduce the risk and impacts of climatic shocks and seasonal hardships. WFP also supports smallholder farmers through the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) and local and regional procurement schemes.

- FAO-supported farmer and pastoral field schools, along with training in climate-resilient agricultural practices, help to boost production and increase income and diversification of livelihoods.
- IFAD works to strengthen local producers' organizations, promote greater access to rural financial services and improve the community-based governance of scarce natural resources.

Furthermore, WFP would like to emphasize that gender equality and women's empowerment, country capacity strengthening and private sector engagement are high-level priorities for WFP. This is reflected in our Strategic Plan 2022-25, in WFP corporate policies, as well as in a large range of Country Strategic Plans (CSP). WFP will continue engaging with the RBAs to leverage the profile of these critical issues at global, regional and country levels. WFP is aiming to strengthen, scale and replicate joint, high-impact resilience-building initiatives, such as the Sahel Integrated Resilience Programme, which successfully bring together national governments, communities, the RBA and other UN agencies, donors, civil society and the academia.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with Morocco and the Africa Regional Group on these important issues.

#### CHAIRPERSON

Before we move to conclusions do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item, and again also for virtual participants please use the 'raise hand' button and you can be given the floor. I do not see any hands up.

WFP Management, if you wish to respond please let me know.

**Mr Laurent BUKERA (Director, Corporate Planning and Performance Division, WFP)**

I do not have any other addition, with great thanks for the collaboration.

#### CHAIRPERSON

Then we can already move to conclusions for Item 16. They will be put on screen.

Item 16, *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*

1. the Conference,
  - a. endorsed the annual Reports of the World Food Programme WFP Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and FAO on its activities in 2020 and 2021, and
  - b. commended WFP personnel for their dedicated work in challenging circumstances.

Are there any comments from the floor? I do not see any. Then this already concludes Item 16.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Item 14.</b>  | <b>Progress report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System</b>   |
| <b>Point 14.</b> | <b>Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement</b>  |
| <b>Tema 14.</b>  | <b>Informe sobre los progresos respecto de la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo</b> |

#### CHAIRPERSON

I move on to Item 14 now, *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System*, document C 2023/26.

The introduction of Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General, has been published on the Conference web page.

***Introduction to Item 14: Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System***



*Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General*

The following interim report presents an overview of the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the period from June 2021 to June 2023. This report highlights FAO's progress in aligning its programmes and policies with the QCPR priorities, improving efficiency and effectiveness, and strengthening partnerships with other United Nations (UN) agencies. It encompasses FAO's key accomplishments, achievements and results in leveraging financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Throughout the report, particular emphasis is placed on FAO's efforts to unlock the transformative potential of partnerships and achieve record results in resource mobilization. By collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders and resource partners, FAO has successfully scaled up its support for SDG implementation. Moreover, the report showcases FAO's strategic shift towards integrated and country-driven policy advice, with a focus on climate and biodiversity, gender equality, disability, youth and country-driven innovations.

FAO's engagement and leadership in global and country-level coordination, efficiency and partnership mechanisms are underscored, highlighting the Organization's pivotal role in positioning agrifood systems transformation at the centre of the UN's sustainable development agenda. FAO's contributions extend to key initiatives such as the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda" and various UN global coordination mechanisms, ensuring the effective integration of agricultural and food-related considerations into broader sustainable development endeavours.

Additionally, the report sheds light on the emerging trends from the 2020 QCPR, addressing the alarming increase in food insecurity resulting from the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, protracted conflicts, climate crises and economic downturns. These factors have impeded progress towards several SDGs, most notably SDGs 1, 2 and 10, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive actions to address these challenges.

Throughout this report, FAO's specific initiatives, achievements and contributions to the UN system-wide processes are emphasized, providing a comprehensive assessment of FAO's role in advancing sustainable development, addressing food insecurity and promoting inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

La Argentina reconoce el aumento significativo en las contribuciones voluntarias movilizadas en el bienio 2021-2022 en comparación con el período anterior. Es alentador ver que el objetivo de 1.700 millones de USD fue superado, estableciendo un nuevo récord de 2.140 millones de USD de recursos anuales movilizadas en 2022. Esto demuestra el creciente compromiso y apoyo hacia la FAO.

Sin embargo, sería beneficioso contar con un mayor desglose de los donantes para identificar a aquellos actores relevantes comprometidos con la FAO. Aunque se mencionan los Estados Miembros, bancos de desarrollo, el sector privado y fondos para el clima y el medio ambiente como parte de los 144 asociados que contribuyen recursos, no se proporciona información específica sobre quiénes son estos donantes. Conocer quienes son los principales donantes y su nivel de compromiso (como sucede en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos) podría ayudar a evaluar mejor la sostenibilidad y la diversidad de los recursos financieros de la FAO.

Además, sería relevante tener más detalles sobre el aumento del 208% en los recursos procedentes de fondos verticales e instituciones financieras internacionales, así como del aumento del 183% en las donaciones del sector privado, principalmente de fundaciones. Comprender el origen de estos recursos adicionales podría proporcionar información valiosa sobre las áreas de mayor apoyo y las oportunidades para fortalecer las asociaciones existentes o buscar nuevas alianzas estratégicas.

Por otro lado, la Argentina resalta el significativo trabajo de la FAO en su participación y liderazgo en los mecanismos mundiales y nacionales de coordinación, eficiencia y asociación de las Naciones Unidas. Estas acciones demuestran un compromiso sólido con la colaboración global y la búsqueda de soluciones conjuntas conforme los objetivos de la resolución (A/RES/75/233).

Sin embargo, es fundamental recordar que la transformación de los sistemas agroalimentarios además de situarse estratégicamente en el centro de la Agenda de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible debe ser una realidad. Esto necesariamente implica considerar las capacidades, prioridades y contextos locales, evitando soluciones universales que podrían no ser adecuadas para todas las situaciones, y por lo tanto cómplices de una agenda, aunque central, sin sustancia ni resultados concretos.

Cada país y comunidad tiene sus propias características y desafíos únicos en relación con la agricultura, la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo sostenible. Por lo tanto, es esencial que la FAO continúe fortaleciendo su enfoque en la adaptabilidad y contextualización de sus programas y políticas para abordar las necesidades específicas de cada realidad en el terreno. Esto implica colaborar estrechamente con los actores locales, escuchar sus voces, ofrecer el amplio abanico de soluciones posibles, existentes y concretas, y garantizar una participación activa e inclusiva en el diseño e implementación de las estrategias nacionales.

## **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation takes note of the interim report containing detailed information on FAO's participation in implementing UNGA resolution 75/233 (December 2020). We also note FAO's significant results in mobilizing voluntary contributions (in 2021-2022 – USD 3.6 billion; a 38 percent increase over the period 2019-2020) and expanding its donor base (to 144 entities, including Members, development banks, private sector organizations and climate and environmental funds), primarily for the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2022-31. At the same time, we note that the top 20 partners provided 85 percent of all mobilized resources, with 53 percent provided by the top five partners.

We welcome FAO's consistent implementation of its commitments under the UN Funding Compact, including through participation in the UN multi-donor trust fund and other flexible funding instruments to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the country level under the leadership of Resident Coordinators. We support FAO's contribution as the UN's fourth largest agency in terms of presence in the field in reorienting UN development programmes and activities on host countries' specific needs in transforming agrifood systems and implementing initiatives such as the UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda".

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:11*

In the context of multiple crises, including global food insecurity – exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine – that are intensified by climate shocks, it is even more important that every entity of the UN Development System (UNDS) coordinates and collaborates to maximise its comparative advantage so that the system becomes more than the sum of its parts. The United Kingdom (UK) therefore welcomes FAO's report on the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), which notes good progress on realising key UN Reform initiatives to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and relevance of the UNDS.

The UK welcomes FAO's continued support to the Resident Coordinator system and work actively contributing to Common Country Analyses and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation

Frameworks. As the fourth largest UN entity in terms of field presence, we urge FAO to take a leading role in the reforms – including enhancing focus on providing integrated policy support in country as mandated by the QCPR and increasing efforts to leverage scaled-up finance and investment in country.

Given the myriad of challenges being faced in many countries, we need to be able to harness the full expertise of the UN system – including improving the regional architecture. We therefore welcome the work of Regional and Subregional Offices to deliver the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, with strengthened technical expertise. We would like to ask for information on what measures FAO has put in place to ensure there is a clear mandate between offices, so host Governments know where to access expertise.

The UK welcomes the establishment of the internal UN Efficiency Board to oversee FAO's effective engagement in the efficiency agenda. To maximise money reaching those in need, resources and premises should be shared. We look forward to following plans to accelerate this work in the coming year as well as to reviewing the findings of the Efficiency Board and their implementation.

In the year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit, we welcome FAO's commitment to working in coalition with the UNDS to leave no one behind. UN priorities for the Summit include transformative actions that will help maximise progress across multiple SDGs, and as FAO notes, transformation of agrifood systems provides a unique opportunity to address other major development challenges. We welcome the focus to mainstream climate and biodiversity, gender equality, disability and youth. We encourage FAO to regularly share data on monitoring and reporting of results.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Soumis le mardi 13 juin 2023, 8:45*

La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat du rapport intérimaire qui met en lumière le suivi apporté par la FAO aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies relatives aux activités opérationnelles de développement du système onusien.

Le nouveau cadre stratégique 2022-2031 de la FAO intègre les recommandations du QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) approuvées par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en décembre 2020 (A/RES/75/233). Nous encourageons la FAO de continuer à aligner sa planification stratégique et son cadre de résultat sur le cycle du QCPR et de présenter régulièrement ce point de l'ordre du jour aux organes directeurs de la FAO.

La Suisse soutient le renforcement de l'efficacité, de la cohérence et de transparence du système de développement onusien tant au niveau global, régional que local. Nous encourageons ainsi la FAO à mettre en place des indicateurs clairs pour refléter sa contribution à des initiatives communes exécutées avec différents partenaires, ainsi que des indicateurs spécifiques reflétant la contribution spécifique de la FAO à la mise en œuvre du QCPR.

La Suisse encourage la FAO à continuer de faire rapport sur sa contribution au Plan d'action à l'échelle du système des Nations Unies sur l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes. La Suisse souligne également l'importance d'améliorer la disponibilité de statistiques sexospécifiques dans les domaines de l'agriculture et du développement rural.

## **CANADA**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada thanks FAO for the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) reporting at this critical juncture. We share the concerns raised in the Report: the world is not on track to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are falling behind on SDG 2: Zero Hunger. An already dire global food security situation has been further exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Canada supports a more coherent and coordinated UN response to development challenges at country-level through the strategic leadership of the Resident Coordinator. This includes strengthened joint analysis and programming; improved synergy across peacebuilding and humanitarian work; and

greater advocacy and policy dialogue with partners aligned with international standards and norms. FAO has a critical role to play here.

We encourage FAO to apply and coordinate UN system-wide approaches in the response to the current global food crisis and future crises, building on the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Canada also expects implementation of efficiency reforms – especially in-country – by consolidation of operations, increased data interoperability, use of common premises and common back offices with other UNDS entities. We also encourage the use and improvement of relevant data collections to include more effective system-level SDG monitoring and reporting.

In conclusion, we urge FAO and other UNDS entities to prioritize partnerships in all their work, including analysis, policy support, programming and advocacy. We believe that fully implementing UNDS reforms will take us one step closer to reaching the SDGs.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement. The European Union and its 27 Member States note FAO's progress in implementing the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) in the context of the United Nations development system (UNDS), as decided in General Assembly Resolution 75/233.

We welcome the information that FAO mobilised USD 3.6 billion in voluntary contributions in 2021-2022 and that the Organization was able to widen the resource partner base. At the same time, we need to be mindful of the stability and predictability of budget execution, so that FAO can plan and implement the Programme of Work with greater certainty and consistency. We call for the development of a comprehensive vision for the funding of the Organization including the use of assessed and voluntary contributions, and the management of the various funding arrangements and their contribution to the achievement of the Organization's objectives and the Strategic Framework 2022-31 in an effective, efficient and transparent way.

Furthermore, we appreciate the new Annual and Monthly Funding Overview webpages, which strengthen the openness and transparency of FAO.

We recognize FAO's important role in putting the transformation of agriculture and food systems at the centre of sustainable development and appreciate FAO's alignment of strategic priorities to better harmonize with the UNDS. It is essential that we further reduce duplication and generate synergies at country level. We note with concern ongoing competition for resources between UN agencies. We call upon FAO to strengthen efforts to programme and deliver based on the Organization's comparative advantages, and avoid being driven by individual agency funding targets. We also call upon FAO to continue to fully integrate UN coordination in standard operating procedures, rather than view it as an additional task.

We welcome the empowerment of the Decentralised Offices and recognize their important role in facilitating partnerships between many different actors at both subregional and regional level. We welcome that great strides have been made in coherence, cooperation and collective action at country level. We want to emphasize that it is essential for FAO to support Resident Coordinator's (RC) in-country leadership. RCs need to be enabled and empowered – through the active support of all country team members – to utilize their convening power and bring the system together for enhanced delivery.

We recognize FAO's work on resilience and its role in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus and appreciate the work that is done by the Organization while stressing the importance of a multi-perspective and multistakeholder approach in addressing food insecurity. As evident in Figure 4 of document C 2023/6, FAO is already working closely with other UN organizations at country level, especially with the Rome-based Agencies, and we encourage further collaboration between FAO, The World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at

all levels. We again would like to flag the pivotal role of the RC/HC in advancing UN shared values and norms regarding human rights, including gender equality, and in consolidating the UNDS's offer and coordinating interventions across the Humanitarian – Development – Peace nexus. Especially collaboration on peacebuilding seems to remain challenging. We therefore welcome the UN Secretary General's request to identify ways to strengthen support, and we encourage FAO to actively engage in this.

We welcome FAO's work as part of the Global Network against Food Crises, which was launched jointly by the European Union, FAO and WFP following the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

The EU is conscious of the major setbacks that the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, economic downturns and, not least, the multiple armed conflicts have caused for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The EU and its 27 Member States fully support FAO's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to be a strong partner for FAO in the future.

*Response from Secretariat*  
*Réponses du Secrétariat*  
*Respuestas de la Secretaría*

FAO is grateful to its Members for acknowledging the Organization's recent achievements and continued efforts to align its strategic planning and results framework with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) cycle.

In the context of the QCPR, FAO confirms its strategic direction to continue placing the transformation of agrifood systems at the centre of sustainable development, while ensuring tailored context-dependent solutions and approaches reflecting disparities between and within countries.

FAO appreciates the recognition of its vital role in UN repositioning, particularly at the country level, and is determined to further develop strategized, integrated and country-focused partnerships with the entire UN system, to leverage much needed investments, efficiencies and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) financing at scale.

Detailed comments on specific observations raised by the Members are provided below.

**On resource mobilization:**

Since 2021, FAO has invested effort to provide more detail and granularity on the sources of voluntary contributions to FAO's integrated budget, now available at the newly launched website for Members [here](#).

The [Annual Funding Overview](#) provides details regarding all resource partners' contributions between 2020 and 2022.

FAO is the third largest implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the second largest UN partner of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as Members request FAO to act as an accredited or executing entity for their GEF and GCF allocations. This reflects the recognition of the very high quality of the technical work provided by FAO.

While the increase in private sector funding appears large, these figures represent a small absolute amount, just 1.5 percent of the total funding, and fluctuations between years are common. For example, 60 percent of all private sector contributions were provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Thankful for the generosity of donors, FAO will continue to provide Members with regular and transparent information on the Organization's resource mobilization portfolio and emerging trends.

**On gender-disaggregated statistics in agriculture and rural development:**

In April, FAO launched a new report entitled *The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems* (SWAFS), which showed that significant gaps remain regarding the availability, scope and granularity of gender data and statistics in agriculture and food systems.

FAO supports countries to address the data gaps by raising awareness about the need for gender data, advising on gender-responsive and transformative policies, supporting the implementation of rigorous gender analyses, and providing trainings, guidelines and advice on good practices.

FAO presented new gender statistics on employment in agrifood systems and on food security during the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Group of Experts on Gender Statistics meeting, held in Geneva in May 2023.

In September 2023, FAO and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) will co-host the launch of a new metric called “Women’s Empowerment Metric for National Statistical Systems”, being developed by IFPRI and Emory University in close collaboration with the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap.

### **On Efficiency reform:**

FAO has been fully engaged in the UN efficiency agenda initiatives at all levels and has launched the internal UN Efficiency Board, which brings together internal divisions and offices responsible for the various components of the agenda, to improve efficiency gains across the Organization.

Common Premises (CP): FAO enjoys government-provided premises for Decentralized Offices, in line with the host country agreement’s provisions. The modality in place already caters for efficiencies/benefits, which otherwise would have required securing additional resources for rental of office space at the country office level. As of the end 2022, FAO had 12 percent of its offices under the CP arrangements, including 50 Country Offices across the globe, with the largest share in Africa.

Common Back Office (CBO): FAO is engaging in this fast-evolving initiative, with ten pilots moving forward in 2023. FAO’s expected benefits need to be assessed case-by-case, given that FAO’s Global Shared Service Centre – one of the longest serving across the UN – has consolidated the location of independent services both horizontally (from headquarters) and vertically (from the field).

### **On data collection for SDG monitoring and reporting:**

FAO is committed to enhancing data collection capacities leading to improved SDG monitoring and reporting. FAO is implementing activities on harmonizing data collection and reporting tools with those used by other custodian agencies through the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators and the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System.

### **On FAO’s role in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus:**

As recommended by the first ever evaluation across the UN system of FAO’s role in the HDP nexus (2021), the Organization is investing more in conflict-sensitive and peace-responsive programming, in line with its normative and technical mandates and comparative advantages.

FAO has built partnerships with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and is a member of the Peacebuilding Contact Group and the Peacebuilding Strategy Group; the latter represented at Deputy Director-General (DDG) level. The Organization is currently implementing over 30 joint PBF projects in 24 countries, across various thematic areas such as cross-border transhumance and natural resource management, partnering with entities across the UN system, as well as national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Support from the PBF is a good example of bridging traditionally siloed donor funding-streams across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding, along with providing advance financing for upstream conflict prevention.

In line with the Secretary-General’s request, FAO contributes to local-level peacebuilding, particularly through building resilience and improving livelihoods through our programmes. In 2022, FAO published Operationalizing pathways to sustaining peace in the context of Agenda 2030: a how-to guide.<sup>1</sup>

### **CHAIRPERSON**

<sup>1</sup> (<http://www.fao.org/3/cc1021en/cc1021en.pdf>).

Before we move to conclusions do any Members wish to make further comments under this Item? And the same goes for the colleagues online. The floor is open.

I do not see any hands up. Also no response from Management so we can already move to conclusions I think.

Item 14, *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System*.

1. The Conference noted the Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, including the implications of the five key themes contained in *the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 75/2233* for FAO's work.

It does not seem too controversial either so I conclude this one as well. That was Agenda Item 14.

**Item 15. International Years and Days:**

**Point 15. Années et journées internationales:**

**Tema 15. Años y días internacionales:**

*Item 15.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020*

*Point 15.1 Évaluation de l'Année internationale de la santé des végétaux (2020)*

*Tema 15.1 Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (2020)*

## CHAIRPERSON

We can now move to Item 15, *International Years and Days*. Sub-Item 15.1, *Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020*, document C 2023/27.

The introduction of Mr Jingyuan Xia, Director Plant Production and Protection Division has been published on the Conference web page.

### Introduction to Item 15.1: Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020

*Mr Jingyuan Xia, Director, Plant Production and Protection*

The inaugural International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 began a new period of increased international cooperation for plant health management and greater awareness on how plant health can help address pressing global problems such as hunger, poverty, food insecurity, climate change and threats to the environment. It promoted the use of innovative and environmentally friendly approaches to manage plant pests and increased support for the development of more efficient national, regional and global policies to tackle existing and emerging plant health issues such as new pest pathways such as ecommerce. The IYPH improved technical and financial resources of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its cooperation with plant health research institutions.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 2020 as the IYPH. FAO and the IPPC would implement it. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, which peaked in 2020, affected the course of the IYPH and led to its extension to July 2021. Nonetheless, close to 700 events were organized in 86 countries, with a high-level launch event at FAO, Rome. The IYPH commemoration activities included webinars, exhibitions, peer-reviewed publications, photo and video contests, a children's drawing competition, global awareness campaigns such as World Food Day, information sharing via a dedicated IYPH website, high-level political meetings, production of commemorative coins, social media, IYPH youth declaration and advocacy campaigns by Goodwill Ambassadors Diarmuid Gavin – a garden designer and television personality from Ireland, Rodrigo Pacheco – a celebrated chef from Ecuador and Monty Don – a horticulturalist from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .

The IYPH funding was from voluntary contributions from Australia, China, Finland, France, Ireland, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the International Seed Federation and the IPPC's allocation for China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

Following a successful IYPH, in March 2022, the UNGA proclaimed 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), celebrated for the first time in 2022. In September 2022, the first International Plant Health Conference was held in London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The IPPC community continues promoting the IDPH, outcomes of the IYPH and better plant health management, in line with its Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, to promote more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

The IPPC invites the FAO Conference to endorse this evaluation report and encourages FAO Members to promote the IDPH and implement actions to safeguard plant health for food and income security.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia reconoce todos los logros alcanzados dentro del marco del Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (AISV). A pesar de los retos impuestos por la pandemia del COVID –19, todas las actividades derivadas de la puesta en práctica del AISV pudieron realizarse mediante numerosos actos en 86 países, la primera Conferencia Internacional sobre Sanidad Vegetal a finales de 2022, el nombramiento de un embajador de buena voluntad de la FAO y a dos promotores del AISV para ayudar a la FAO a sensibilizar a la opinión pública sobre la importante contribución de la sanidad vegetal a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), y la aprobación del Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal el 12 de mayo de cada año.

Colombia además expresa su reconocimiento a los miembros del Comité Directivo Internacional y a sus colaboradores, por llevar a cabo por primera vez en la historia, y de manera exitosa, un año internacional centrado fundamentalmente en actividades en redes sociales y medios virtuales.

Colombia enfatiza la importancia de los legados del AISV y de la sanidad vegetal para la erradicación del hambre, la reducción de la pobreza, la protección del medio ambiente y el impulso del desarrollo económico, así como para el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. Además, reafirma que todas estas acciones se complementan con el Marco estratégico de la FAO para 2022-2031, orientado a la transformación hacia sistemas agroalimentarios más eficientes, inclusivos, resilientes y sostenibles para conseguir una mejor producción, una mejor nutrición, un mejor medio ambiente y una vida mejor, sin dejar a nadie atrás.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America endorses the report on the evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020. The International Year of Plant Health 2020 was an important initiative to raise awareness of plant health worldwide annually.

Invasive plant pests are a major agricultural, environmental and ecological threat. Every year, a significant portion of the global harvest is lost to plant pests.

The establishment of the International Day of Plant Health 2020 has been an important step to address future pest risk challenges that may have serious impacts on food security, the environment, and the global trade system. The United States of America looks forward to continue collaborating with others to support international plant health activities.

## ARGENTINA

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*



En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

La Argentina reconoce la importancia de la sanidad vegetal y su función para lograr los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles (ODS), en particular, la seguridad alimentaria, el crecimiento sostenible, la protección ambiental y la erradicación de la pobreza, así como el papel de FAO y de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF) en esta materia.

En este espíritu, la Argentina desea destacar que el Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal ha dado continuidad a las iniciativas emprendidas durante todo el Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (2020) para sensibilizar al público y los encargados de formular políticas sobre el papel fundamental de la sanidad vegetal a la hora de afrontar el hambre, la pobreza, el cambio climático, el desarrollo económico y la seguridad del comercio internacional desde el punto de vista fitosanitario.

## AUSTRALIA

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia recognises the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, food security and threats to the environment and economic development. Australia strongly supported the establishment of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 and can endorse this report. Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their active involvement in this initiative and recognises the contribution of FAO in supporting and coordinating activities of the International Year. Australia was actively engaged in activities supporting the IYPH, including a successful Australian launch event held on 6 February 2020 at Parliament House, in Canberra. A special video message from the Director-General of FAO, Dr QU Dongyu, was also broadcast. The launch was attended by over 100 delegates including representatives from diplomatic missions, industry, Commonwealth and state and territory governments, parliamentarians and media. Other activities included:

- The School Bee Habitat Project where a young student from Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston, Tasmania, set herself a task of replanting the wetlands of her school and building bee hotels to encourage more native bees into the area with the assistance of the IYPH coordinator.
- The Lights!Canberra!Action! film festival with organisers of the Enlighten Festival Canberra, which dedicated its Film Festival to the IYPH with the festival theme of 'Planted'.
- The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Hermitage Science Competition, which celebrated the centenary of the Hermitage Research Facility — the oldest agricultural research facility in Queensland.
- The creation of the website "Everyday Plant Health Heroes", which generated awareness of the people supporting Australia's high plant health status.
- Development of "Top Trumps" style playing cards themed around plant pests, which were used for promotion and education purposes.
- Collaboration with several other agencies and stakeholders to support local programmes of work, promotion and celebration of the year.

In addition, Australia hosted the International Symposium on Limiting the Spread of Contaminant Pests in Sydney from 3 to 4 March 2020. The Symposium brought together plant health and biosecurity experts as well as trade-related industry stakeholders to discuss cost effective solutions to prevent the spread of contaminating pests, and foster collaboration among governments and industry to improve container hygiene and pathway management at the global level. This Symposium also contributed to the finalisation of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)'s Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) recommendation on this topic, which was adopted in 2022. Australia would like to reiterate the importance of sustaining momentum beyond the International Year, an aspiration made even more possible through the ratification of the International Day of Plant

Health each 12 May. Through this platform and others, we encourage all countries to take learnings from the international year forward to maintain institutional focus on the importance of plant health to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

## **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 8:45*

Switzerland thanks FAO and the IPPC for the report and commends them on the efforts and activities carried out in the frame of the International Year on Plant Health 2020, despite the numerous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report highlights well FAO's activities during the IYPH. We would appreciate if the evaluation could also reflect and acknowledge the important contributions made by the different countries and their respective national plant protection agencies, which have been key to the success of the IYPH. Countries had reported back to the IPPC on their main activities and measures, which could have been reflected in the evaluation.

With this remark, we can endorse the report.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States regarding the abovementioned agenda item of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference.

The International Year of Plant Health 2020 has raised global awareness of how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development. It has emphasised the importance of plant health, which is becoming ever-more important, due to climate change and increased international travel and trade.

Plants play a critical role in achieving sustainable and competitive agriculture and forestry sectors and in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. Keeping plants healthy is, therefore, a priority and so is FAO's support to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius.

The key legacy of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 is the International Day of Plant Health on 12 May. The Day calls on everyone to raise awareness and take action to keep our plants healthy in combatting plant pests by avoiding the introduction and spread of harmful organisms and the application of innovative and sustainable approaches and help protect the environment and biodiversity thereby too.

With these remarks, the EU and its Member States endorse the evaluation report.

### ***Response from Secretariat Réponses du Secrétariat Respuestas de la Secretaría***

The Secretariat notes the inputs by Argentina, Australia, Colombia, the European Union and the United States of America. We acknowledge the comments made by Switzerland. The important contributions made by the individual countries and their respective national plant protection agencies, by contributing to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Multi-Donor Trust Fund contributions, was acknowledged during the 15th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) in 2021, in both the IPPC Secretariat financial report for 2020 and under the item Update on International Year of Plant Health.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Again I ask for any comments from the floor, the floor is open. Also no comments from Management I believe so we can again go to the conclusion already.

Item 15.1, *Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020*.

1. The Conference endorsed the Report on *the Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020*.

I assume this is acceptable to all? It is so concluded.

<b>Item 15.2</b>	<b><i>Evaluation of the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables 2021</i></b>
<b>Point 15.2</b>	<b><i>Évaluation de l'Année internationale des fruits et des légumes (2021)</i></b>
<b>Tema 15.2</b>	<b><i>Evaluación del Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras (2021)</i></b>

## CHAIRPERSON

This is Sub-Item 15.2, *Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021*, document C 2023/28.

The introduction of Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director General, has been published on the Conference web page.

### **Introduction to Item 15.2: Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021**

*Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General*

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2021 the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV or the Year) and designated the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as lead agency to celebrate the Year in collaboration with governments, international organizations and relevant non-state actors. As per UNGA Resolution A/RES/74/244, FAO presented the *Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021* to inform Members on the successful implementation of the Year.

The main objectives of the IYFV were to: raise awareness of, and direct policy attention to, the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetables; highlight the contribution of fruit and vegetable consumption to the promotion of diversified, balanced, and healthy diets and lifestyles; reduce loss and waste of fruit and vegetables; and endorse sustainable agricultural practices.

A Global Action Plan was prepared in collaboration with the IYFV International Steering Committee to guide the activities and events of the Year, centred along four main lines of action: i) advocacy and awareness raising; ii) knowledge creation and dissemination; iii) policy making; and iv) capacity development and education.

The IYFV was promoted through an intensive communications campaign, making particular use of social media, a designated website and the production of promotional videos. Events, workshops and webinars were held throughout the regions, organized by a variety of actors, disseminating information on the importance of consuming fruit and vegetables, as well as ways to reduce food loss and waste and to support more sustainable production practices.

The IYFV closing ceremony was held virtually on 24 February 2022, during which a general desire was expressed to see the momentum of the IYFV carried beyond the closure of the official Year.

The attention of the Conference is drawn to the importance of maintaining this impetus and continuing to promote increased fruit and vegetable consumption as part of a healthy balanced diet and lifestyle, improving sustainable food production through innovation, and using technology to reduce food loss and waste to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Organization.

### ***Comments from Members Commentaires des Membres Observaciones de los Miembros***

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia cuenta con una gran variedad de frutas tropicales (banano, aguacate, limón, piña, y mango) y exóticas (uchuva, gulupa, pitahaya, granadilla) con gran aceptación en el mercado internacional.

Además, el país se beneficia de la gran diversidad de condiciones topográficas y climáticas, que permiten que haya cosechas de una amplia variedad de frutas durante todo el año.

Por lo tanto, Colombia observa con agrado los logros alcanzados durante el Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras y se permite felicitar a la FAO y a la Secretaría del Año Internacional, por haber llevado a cabo de manera exitosa actos, talleres y seminarios web en todas las regiones, organizados por diversos agentes, con miras a promover el Año Internacional y difundir información sobre la importancia de las frutas y verduras, divulgar formas de reducir la pérdida y el desperdicio de alimentos y respaldar prácticas de producción más sostenible.

Además, destacamos la publicación de los documentos “Frutas y verduras – esenciales en tu dieta. Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras, 2021. Documento de antecedentes” y “Frutas y hortalizas: Oportunidades y desafíos para la agricultura sostenible a pequeña escala”. También, reconocemos la intensa y bien desarrollada campaña de comunicación puesta en marcha por la FAO que terminó con la celebración de más de un centenar de actos de sensibilización en todo el mundo.

Las frutas y las verduras tienen un impacto importante en la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible. Consideramos que conmemoraciones como esta tienen un impacto positivo en los ODS, particularmente el 1 (Fin de la pobreza), 2 (Hambre cero), 3 (Salud y Bienestar), 13 (Acción por el clima) y 17 (Alianzas para lograr los objetivos). Finalmente, alentamos a todos los Miembros de la FAO y otros actores pertinentes, a mantener el impulso de este Año Internacional.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

La Argentina desea destacar la iniciativa del Gobierno de Chile para promover la realización del Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras que contó con el apoyo fundamental de FAO.

Consideramos que las actividades en el marco de este Año Internacional han servido para divulgar con éxito conocimientos sobre los beneficios nutricionales del consumo de frutas y verduras en el entendimiento de que constituyen un componente elemental en las dietas saludables.

En este sentido, nos congratulamos por la campaña de comunicación desarrollada por FAO, en particular en lo referente a la elaboración de la publicación Frutas y hortalizas: Oportunidades y desafíos para la agricultura sostenible, así como el diseño de videos educativos sobre la importancia de estos alimentos.

Teniendo en cuenta que esta celebración se desarrolló durante la pandemia del COVID-19, estamos satisfechos por los logros alcanzados e invitamos a FAO a continuar las acciones de concientización más allá de la finalización del Año.

## **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia recognises the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption, and the contribution of fruit and vegetable consumption to the promotion of diversified, balanced and healthy diets and lifestyles. Australia supported the establishment of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV) 2021 and can endorse this report. Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for their active involvement in this initiative and recognises the contribution of FAO in supporting and coordinating activities of the International Year.

Australia was actively engaged in activities supporting the IYFV, including the development of “Top Trumps” style playing cards themed around fruits and vegetables, which were used for promotion and education purposes. Australia would like to reiterate the importance of sustaining momentum beyond the International Year, and we encourage all countries to take learnings from the International Year

forward to maintain institutional focus on the importance of fruit and vegetables for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States take note of the evaluation report submitted by FAO on the Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021.

We appreciate the activities undertaken by FAO to facilitate the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV) 2021. A range of events were held, and tools developed, also within the EU and its Member States, that contributed to the main objective of the IYFV.

We take note that the COVID-19 pandemic caused specific challenges in the implementation of the IYFV with the effect that many events could not take place at all or only in a virtual mode due to sanitary restrictions, and sometimes also due to a lack of funds.

We are convinced that the nutritional and health benefits of fruits and vegetables, and their contribution to diversified, balanced and healthy diets deserve the continuous attention of us all.

We would like therefore to encourage countries to continue to actively pay attention to promote the consumption of fruit and vegetables in their agricultural policies beyond the scope of the IYFV.

## **CHILE**

*Presentado el viernes 16 de junio 2023 a las 11.09*

Se invita a la Conferencia a:

- a) respaldar el presente informe, tomando nota de los logros sustanciales alcanzados a todos los niveles en el contexto del Año Internacional de las Frutas y Verduras (2021);
- b) destacar la importancia de las frutas y verduras en la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) para 2030;
- c) alentar a los Miembros de la FAO y otros actores pertinentes a mantener el impulso del

Año Internacional, tomando medidas concretas para promover un mayor consumo de frutas y verduras que contribuya a mejorar la salud humana y a lograr unas prácticas más sostenibles en la producción y el comercio de frutas y verduras, todo ello en el contexto de unos sistemas alimentarios más eficientes y resilientes.

Chile agradece a la comunidad internacional, el apoyo en el desarrollo de las diversas actividades que fueron parte del AIFV 2021. Esta valiosa iniciativa nos reunió en medio de la pandemia del Covid – 19 para desplegar esfuerzos a nivel mundial, que nos permitieran concientizar y seguir desplegando esfuerzos para promover el consumo de frutas y verduras frescas, dietas saludables y el desarrollo de sistemas alimentarios sostenibles en todos los territorios. Podemos destacar del Año de las Frutas y las Verduras, que los beneficios para salud del consumo de estos alimentos que componen dietas saludables, especialmente en los tiempos de la pandemia del Covid - 19, así como su contribución en la reducción del riesgo de enfermedades cardiovasculares, que son la principal causa de muerte a nivel global. La ingesta de frutas y verduras, desempeña un rol fundamental en la salud. Una dieta rica en estos alimentos puede ayudar a tener una serie de efectos positivos, dentro de los cuales se cuentan la reducción de la presión arterial, el riesgo de enfermedades cardiovasculares e ictus.

En 2017, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) estimó que 3,9 millones de muertes resultaron de un consumo insuficiente de frutas y verduras, en este contexto, la entidad recomienda un consumo mínimo de 400g diarios de frutas y verduras, es decir, cinco porciones al día para reducir el riesgo de desarrollar enfermedades no transmisibles. Las Frutas y Verduras, son un pilar fundamental en la alimentación saludable, la cual forma una parte crítica en la protección social con un enfoque en la

nutrición. Un buen estado nutricional entrega beneficios durante todo el curso de vida: hace que estudiantes aprendan mejor, que trabajadores y trabajadoras tengan un mejor desempeño laboral, y que las personas mayores tengan una mejor vejez. Además, un buen estado nutricional sirve para abordar los determinantes sociales de la salud, para que todos y todas puedan gozar de un bienestar con menos incidencia de enfermedades no transmisibles prevenibles.

Con los antecedentes previamente señalados en cuenta, el Gobierno de Chile se mantiene el impulso del AIFV y en este marco está implementando medidas concretas para promover un mayor consumo de frutas y verduras que contribuyan a mejorar la salud humana. Unos ejemplos de este trabajo se encuentran a continuación.

### **Microbancos de alimentos saludables**

Los microbancos de alimentos de Elige Vivir Sano y la Corporación Observatorio del Mercado Alimentario CODEMA son una instancia de coordinación entre el Estado y la sociedad civil en la cual se recuperan frutas y verduras que por distintas razones no se pudieron comercializar en ferias libres y mercados locales, pero que se encuentran en buen estado y aptos para el consumo humano, para entregarlos sin costo a quienes más lo necesitan. De esta forma, se colabora directamente a la seguridad alimentaria de la población más vulnerable del país a través de organizaciones sociales como comedores solidarios, juntas de vecinos, clubes de personas mayores y fundaciones, y además se logra disminuir el desperdicio de alimentos. Esta iniciativa se encuentra en pleno desarrollo, con 47 microbancos de alimentos en ejecución en 11 regiones distintas y con muy buenos resultados preliminares, por lo que en los próximos meses se debería materializar la creación de 79 microbancos en todas las regiones del país.

### **Fondo Chile-México**

Estrategia para promover e incentivar la compra de frutas y verduras que busca promover el consumo de frutas y verduras en poblaciones vulnerables que se encuentra en desarrollo es un proyecto en el marco del Fondo Chile- México que contempla un piloto para entregar un subsidio para frutas y verduras y una estrategia educacional a personas en comunas de nivel socioeconómico bajo. Se implementará proyectos espejos tanto en Chile como en México para examinar el efecto de esta iniciativa en la compra y consumo de frutas y verduras.

### **Programa Autoconsumo, Apoyo a la Seguridad Alimentaria**

Este programa, alojado en el Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Familia, apoya a familias en sectores rurales para que implementen tecnologías de producción, procesamiento, preparación o preservación de alimentos, para que las familias puedan producir y disponer de alimentos saludables. El programa es ejecutado por las municipalidades focalizadas a través de un equipo multidisciplinario que contempla apoyo productivo, social y nutricional, para acompañar a las familias participantes durante el tiempo que dura la ejecución.

### **Fondo de Desarrollo de Ferias Libres**

El Servicio de Cooperación Técnica en el Ministerio de Economía, Fomento y Turismo entrega apoyo y financiamiento a las ferias libres en el país para fortalecer la modernización, la asociatividad, la gestión e innovación de las ferias. Las ferias libres son importantes fuentes de las frutas y verduras en Chile, ofreciendo productos sanos y locales por precios más bajos que los supermercados, por lo cual el apoyo a estas resulta fundamental. Cabe destacar que para 2023, la convocatoria actualizó su criterio de evaluación para incorporar criterios sensibles a la nutrición, priorizando por ejemplo ferias con microbancos de alimentos y las que se encuentran en desiertos alimentarios.

### **Nuevas Guías Alimentarias para Chile**

En diciembre 2022, el Ministerio de Salud lanzó las nuevas Guías Alimentarias para Chile que dedicó los dos primeros mensajes al consumo de frutas y verduras. El primer mensaje señala, “Consume alimentos frescos de ferias y mercados establecidos”, detallando que algunos alimentos frescos que se puede encontrar en estos lugares son las frutas y las verduras, y el segundo mensaje plantea, “Ponle color y sabor a tu día con verduras y frutas en todo lo que comes”. Este último especifica que el consumo diario de al menos tres porciones de verduras y dos porciones de frutas puede contribuir a

mantener y mejorar la salud, y que las frutas y verduras representan grandes aliados para el bienestar de la población. Chile agradece el apoyo de FAO, en especial de la Directora de la Oficina de Comunicaciones, Asociaciones y Promoción de la FAO, Sra. Marcela Villareal y a todos los Estados que fueron parte del Comité Directivo Internacional y de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil a nivel mundial, que se dieron múltiples citas virtuales para llevar a cabo acciones de alcance global, regional y local impulsadas desde el Sistema Internacional en relación al AIFV. Sin duda debemos seguir promoviendo un mayor consumo de frutas y verduras y en especial impulsando educación nutricional para generar hábitos y conciencia de que alimentación es salud y es desarrollo. En la [Página Web](#) del año podrán encontrar material como el Plan de Acción Mundial y otros documentos y elementos de referencia para realizar actividades de difusión en sus Estados.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO acknowledges and greatly appreciates the written comments submitted by Australia, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and the European Union. Their insightful contributions have been duly noted and taken into utmost consideration.

FAO acknowledges the need for continued attention and momentum to increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and education beyond the International Year and appreciates the examples of concrete actions and activities expressed by the Government of Chile and others. In particular, FAO extends its appreciation to the Government of Chile for its leadership and commitment in facilitating the International Steering Committee. Their invaluable efforts have been instrumental in fostering a productive and collaborative environment, enabling meaningful dialogue and effective decision-making.

FAO affirms its continued efforts to amplify and emphasize the significance of fruits and vegetables and will continue to foster and propel heightened fruit and vegetable consumption as an integral component of a healthy and balanced diet and lifestyle.

Moreover, FAO remains in its pursuit of advancing sustainable food production. It is firmly committed to promote initiatives that curtail food loss and waste and foster innovation, ensuring the efficient utilization, and sustainable management of, our resources.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I first look to the floor for any comments.. Then I look to Management, are there any comments? Then we can already go to conclusions.

Item 15.2, *Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021*.

1. The Conference endorsed the *Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021*.

Look at Members for any comments? No. Then I conclude Agenda Sub-Item 15.2.

<b><i>Item 15.3</i></b>	<b><i>Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022</i></b>
<b><i>Point 15.3</i></b>	<b><i>Évaluation de l'Année internationale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture artisanales (2022)</i></b>
<b><i>Tema 15.3</i></b> <b><i>(2022)</i></b>	<b><i>Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales (2022)</i></b>

**CHAIRPERSON**

Third Sub-Item is Sub-Item 15.3, *Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*, documents C 2023/29.

The introduction of Mr Manuel Barange, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, has been published on the Conference web page.

**Introduction to Item 15.3: Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022**

*Mr Manuel Barange, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture*

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

When the United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022), a unique window opened to focus the world's attention on the important role of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish-workers in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication and sustainable use of natural resources.

Under the lead of FAO, and in close collaboration with other UN agencies, FAO Members and partners, the Year provided a successful platform for collective action with over 260 events organized in 68 countries, underpinned by a strong awareness-raising campaign.

Guided by the International Steering Committee, chaired by the Government of Peru and three regional committees, it was a truly global movement to promote and support small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish-workers and their livelihoods.

The success of the year is thanks to the dedication of all who took initiative, including the 61 official IYAFA 2022 partners, from small-scale fisheries organizations to governments.

To close the year, regional partners gathered in Tunisia, in North Africa, for an in-person closing event; a virtual closing event was organized by FAO's office for Africa in December 2022; in February 2023, the Department of Fisheries of Thailand hosted a hybrid regional IYAFA closing event for the Year, jointly with the Too Big To Ignore Partnership and INFOFISH, and the three IYAFA 2022 committees in the Latin America and the Caribbean region joined forces for a shared regional closing event in March 2023.

Many of the IYAFA 2022 activities can be found on the official IYAFA 2022 webpage, including the important outcome documents of these meetings which provide important guidance for all and are part of the legacy of the International Year.

Many of the materials produced to promote the Year remain very relevant and can be found on the IYAFA 2022 webpage.

Norway, Sweden and the European Union provided important financial support to FAO, primarily through existing projects, as this Year was celebrated without a dedicated trust fund.

The end of IYAFA 2022 marks a new era of support for small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture; the Year's final report provides eight key areas for follow-up action and confirmed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication as an agreed framework for all to enable small-scale fisheries to remain stewards of valuable ecosystems and heirs to longstanding traditions and cultures.

Sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and essential to realizing FAO's vision of Blue Transformation to change the way the world manages, uses and conserves its aquatic resources to end hunger and poverty.

**Related documents:**

FAO Conference document C2023/29: <https://www.fao.org/3/nl847en/nl847en.pdf>

FAO IYAFA 2022 home page: <https://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/home/en/>

FAO IYAFA 2022 final Report: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5034en>

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*



**COLOMBIA**

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia acoge y celebra todos los talleres, actos, seminarios web y publicaciones, llevados a cabo en todas las regiones del mundo, con el fin de promover el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales. En especial destaca la organización de la Cumbre de Pesca en Pequeña Escala en septiembre de 2022, el apoyo del Comité de Pesca (COFI) en su 35° periodo de sesiones, y la publicación de My Story: la recopilación hecha por la FAO de 12 historias de vida de personas que se dedican a la pesca y a la acuicultura artesanales a pequeña escala.

En Colombia, según el más reciente estudio realizado en alianza con el PNUD, contamos con 121.000 pescadores formalizados de los más de 300.000 estimados que se dedican a la actividad y 2.700 acuicultores artesanales, por lo que enfatizamos la importancia que tienen estos pescadores, piscicultores y trabajadores de la pesca artesanal en pequeña escala para la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, la erradicación de la pobreza y el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales. Asimismo, Colombia ha ido mejorando la institucionalidad del sector, se le asignó un mayor presupuesto a la Agencia Nacional Pesquera y se busca que tenga mayor presencia nacional. En materia de información, se han caracterizado a más de 110.000 pesqueros artesanales. En el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo se le da gran relevancia a la economía popular, y la pesca y acuicultura son sectores privilegiado.

Observamos, además, la necesidad de una sensibilización a nivel internacional sobre la representación que estos requieren para influir en las políticas y la toma de decisiones, por lo que alentamos a que conmemoraciones como esta se sigan llevando a cabo para fomentar espacios de diálogo y generar conciencia en todo el mundo.

Finalmente, reafirmamos la importancia de estas actividades para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Agenda 2030, las cuatro mejoras del Marco Estratégico de la FAO 2022-2031 y la transformación azul de la FAO, por lo que reiteramos nuestro apoyo a este tipo de conmemoraciones internacionales.

**ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Encomiamos el trabajo realizado por el Gobierno de Perú y la FAO en la preparación y desarrollo del Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura. Como lo expresamos en este punto de agenda en la pasada sesión del COFI, estos enfoques son válidos y necesarios para promover la seguridad alimentaria.

En particular, nos gustaría destacar el impacto de las acciones de sensibilización para dar a conocer las contribuciones de estas actividades para alcanzar la sostenibilidad en sus tres dimensiones (económica, social y ambiental), así como su impacto en materia de igualdad de género e inclusión de jóvenes.

Tomamos nota de las diversas iniciativas regionales y locales lanzadas a partir de este Año y, al mismo tiempo, alentamos a FAO a continuar con sus trabajos en actividad productiva que fortalece el suministro de alimentos saludables a mercados locales, regionales y globales dentro de la visión de la Organización para los sistemas acuáticos sostenibles, comprendida en Marco Estratégico de FAO para 2022-2030, bajo la esfera prioritaria de acción (PPA, en sus siglas en inglés) titulada “Transformación Azul”, entre otras.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States. We emphasise the critical contribution that small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture make to achieving healthy, sustainable and resilient food systems, as well as their role in achieving the SDGs.

We reiterate the need to continue the efforts to maintain the momentum generated by this International Year in support of small-scale fishing and sustainable aquaculture, and to strengthen the orientation of policies that take action to promote and protect them, including by discussing this issue at the first meeting of the new COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management.

We welcome the approval of the FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture during the last session of the COFI SubCommittee on Aquaculture held in Mexico, taking due consideration of the needs of small-scale aquaculture. We call on FAO to sustain its efforts in raising awareness of the role of small-scale fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in the context of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication, by giving aquatic food the position it deserves in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes and continuing elevating the profile of aquatic food systems, and the millions of small-scale actors involved in these systems supporting healthy people and planet.

We emphasise the essential role of artisanal fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in the promotion of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources. The long-term viability of these functions must be guaranteed.

We endorse and support FAO's efforts in advancing and facilitating the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries by improving the socio-economic situation of small-scale fishing communities within the context of sustainable fisheries management.

We encourage FAO's efforts to improve the inclusive and equitable participation of women and youth in artisanal fisheries and sustainable aquaculture, as well as to improve the social protection of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish workers and fish farmers, thus contributing to the equitable and inclusive development of local economies.

With these remarks, the EU and its 27 Member States welcome the Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 and support its approval by the Conference.

***Response from Secretariat***  
***Réponses du Secrétariat***  
***Respuestas de la Secretaría***

FAO appreciates the comments from Colombia and takes note of the particular recognition of the value of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Summit and the publication of human stories. FAO greatly welcomes an increased allocation for support to small-scale fisheries through the National Fisheries Agency and the inclusion of small-scale aquatic food producers in the National Development Plan. FAO takes note of the need to further raise awareness at the international level to enable the representation of small-scale fisherfolk in decision-making processes and to create opportunities for dialogue and knowledge to support this.

We thank Argentina for the support to International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022 and the recognition of the sector to promote food security. We also appreciate the particular recognition of the awareness-raising activities on the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to sustainable development and the emphasis on gender and youth inclusion. FAO notes the call in this context to continue its work in relation to strengthening the supply of healthy aquatic products for local, regional and global markets.

FAO takes note of the comments of the European Union, including in particular in relation to:

- i. further work on strengthening policies that secure sustainable small-scale fisheries, including through discussion at the first meeting of the new Committee on Fisheries (COFI) SubCommittee on Fisheries Management;
- ii. raising awareness of the role of small-scale fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in the context of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication;

- iii. securing the essential role of artisanal fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in the promotion of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources;
- iv. improving the inclusive and equitable participation of women and youth in artisanal fisheries and sustainable aquaculture; as well as
- v. improving social protection of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish workers and fish farmers.

## CHAIRPERSON

Again I ask you are there any comments? Management does not have any comments. We move to conclusion.

Item 15.3, *Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*.

1. The Conference endorsed the *Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*.

Any colleagues with comments? No. Then this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 15.3.

<b>Item 15.4</b>	<b><i>Proposal for an International Day of the Potato</i></b>
<b>Point 15.4</b>	<b><i>Proposition relative à une Journée internationale de la pomme de terre</i></b>
<b>Tema 15.4</b>	<b><i>Propuesta para un Día Internacional de la Papa</i></b>

## CHAIRPERSON

We now come to Sub-Item 15.4, *Proposal for an International Day of the Potato*, document C 2023/LIM/10. The introduction of Mr Jingyuan Xia, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, has been published on the Conference web page.

### **Introduction to Item 15.4: Proposal for an International Day of Potato**

*Mr J Xia, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division*

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the world's five most important crops. It is cultivated in over 150 countries, across all continents, on over 20 million hectares and is regularly consumed by billions of people.

Potato plays an important role in food and nutritional security and serves as the source of a vast industry of various processed products. Potato is a rich source of carbohydrate, antioxidants and nutrients as part of a balanced diet.

Small-scale farmers depend on sustainable potato cultivation to generate income, protect the environment and create social equity.

Potato is genetically diverse; there are over 5 000 hybrids, varieties and landraces of potatoes, many of which are restricted to the Altiplano region in Latin America. Potato is one of the key staple crops that would benefit from advocacy initiatives towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely: SDG 1 – no poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth, SDG 12 – responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 – life on land, and SDG 17 – partnerships for the goals, to achieve the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recognizing the global importance of potato, the UN General Assembly declared 2008 as the International Year of the Potato to raise awareness of the need to promote research and development of sustainable production in low- and middle-income countries. Now the Government of Peru proposes an annual International Day of Potato (IDP), supported by the Kingdom of Belgium, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Ireland and Provinces of Canada, to generate global awareness.

The IDP will increase awareness of critically important issues related to sustainable production and stable value chains, including water and fertilizer availability. Annual celebrations could involve various initiatives such as the development of advocacy materials, technical publications and

documentaries; conducting festivals, establishment of field demonstrations, webinars and other international, regional and national events and the promotion of regional or global networks.

Additionally, each year, the IDP will focus on key issues of potato, including outbreaks of dangerous pests and diseases, innovation and green technologies for potato production, storage, processing and marketing, nutritional values and the promotion of recipes of potato-derived cuisine.

The Conference is invited to:

- review the proposal by the Government of Peru to establish the observance by the UN of an International Day of Potato (IDP), and provide guidance as deemed appropriate; and
- endorse the draft Resolution, as contained in C 2023/LIM/10, and submit the proposal to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

## COLOMBIA

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia expresa con agrado su apoyo la propuesta para un Día Internacional de la Papa. Este alimento tiene una importancia fundamental para el sistema agroalimentario colombiano, pues no es solo uno de los alimentos más consumidos, sino también más cultivados. Colombia cuenta con 850 variedades de papa que representan el 3.3% del PIB agropecuario y generan anualmente miles de empleos. Además, está muy posicionada en la dieta y preparaciones de los colombianos, que consumen en promedio 57 kilos de papa per cápita al año.

Colombia también reconoce la importancia de ayudar a los agricultores en pequeña escala, quienes mayoritariamente se encargan del cultivo de este alimento, para aumentar la sostenibilidad de sus cultivos, incrementar sus ingresos, proteger el medio ambiente y generar una mayor equidad social. Además, resaltamos la importancia que el Comité de Agricultura le ha dado a tener un Día Internacional de la Papa, enmarcado en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible #1 (Fin de la pobreza), #2 (Hambre cero), #8 (Trabajo decente y crecimiento económico), #12 (Producción y consumo responsables), #15 (Vida de ecosistemas terrestres) y #17 (Alianzas para lograr los objetivos).

Finalmente, y teniendo en cuenta los retos que ha planteado la crisis económica causada por el COVID19 y otros factores económicos sobre este alimento, Colombia considera que un Día internacional de la Papa será una herramienta de gran utilidad para generar consciencia sobre su relevancia y llevar a cabo diferentes iniciativas que fomenten su cultivo sostenible y su conservación.

## ARGENTINA

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

La Argentina da la bienvenida a la propuesta del Gobierno del Perú para establecer la celebración, en el marco de Naciones Unidas, del Día Internacional de la Papa.

Es innegable la relevancia mundial de este alimento, en diversas dietas regionales, para contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, al igual que sus aportes al comercio internacional, la creación de empleo y el bienestar social. Así, la Argentina apoya el proyecto de Resolución para esta Conferencia sobre la celebración anual del Día Internacional de la Papa el 30 mayo y adelanta su compromiso para contribuir a la sensibilización de la importancia de este alimento.

## CANADA

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada recognizes the immense importance of the potato as a global food crop and the challenges and opportunities related to potato production and consumption that can be highlighted by way of an official International Day of Potato. Canada endorses the draft Resolution proposing an International Day of Potato.

## **PHILIPPINES**

*Submitted Wednesday 14 June 2023, 14:05*

The Philippines supports the endorsement of the draft Resolution, being proposed by the government of Peru, on the observance by the UN system of an "International Day of Potato" on 30 May every year.

We look forward to the comprehensive platform that could be created from such an initiative to assess the problems and dynamics of sustainable potato production, particularly by smallholder farmers, and to come up with solutions to transform agrifood systems, with the support of the International Potato Center (CIP) among other stakeholders. In the Philippines, there is potential to develop its local seed production system to improve farmers' productivity and profitability as local demand for the potato tuber crop continues to increase, and as a means to contribute to biodiversity use and conservation and support efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The Philippines hopes that this initiative can foster further cooperation in generating collaborative solutions to the problems of smallholders and sustainable potato production including through South–South Cooperation.

## **EUROPEAN UNION**

*Submitted Thursday 15 June 2023, 19:35*

I am honoured to write on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, and Serbia align themselves with this statement. In many countries worldwide, potato crop has contributed to food security and nutrition for a long time. However, the full expression of the potato crop's yield capacity has not yet been achieved. More can be done in terms of making use of the wide range of potato varieties, of its functions in agricultural and ecological systems, and in terms of its nutritional qualities. Improvement is needed in terms of widespread access to locally adapted and appropriate mechanization and equipment, responsible and sustainable use of inputs, and implementation of agronomic practices. Similarly, high-quality potato plants production, in-situ and ex-situ variety conservation, and the continued development and availability of varieties, in particular those that are tolerant of and resistant to abiotic and biotic threats such as potato late blight and drought, must be increased for family farmers around the world.

The International Day of Potato can be a driver to accelerate global work on potato, including the implementation of scientifically supported methods to cope with production challenges and climate-change impacts on rural communities. Involving researchers, breeders and others relevant stakeholders, including the farmers themselves, with a view to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is key. Recognising the expected growth of the world's population, an International Day of Potato can highlight the "power" of potato-based systems to feed people. It should help to raise awareness of the potential of potato to transform food systems and contribute to the resilience of local communities, as well as being a catalyst for discussions on the potential economic levers for family farmers in rural communities. We underscore the need for diversification of farming systems, including the safeguarding of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with potato.

We endorse the call to request the Director-General to present the draft Resolution to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for information purposes; and we support the request to FAO Members to take the requisite steps to ensure consideration of the Resolution to observe 30 May as the International Day of Potato at forthcoming sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

*Response from Secretariat*

**Réponses du Secrétariat  
Respuestas de la Secretaría**

The Secretariat takes note of the inputs provided by Argentina, Canada and Colombia. We note the Philippines' comments regarding the utilization of the South–South Cooperation mechanism to provide support to smallholders in achieving sustainable potato production. Finally, we note the input provided by the European Union with reference to the importance of diversifying farming systems including the safeguarding of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with potato.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Are there any comments from the floor?

**Mr François CLOUTIER (Canada)**

Canada would just like to take this opportunity to express our enthusiasm for this proposed Day of International Potatoes, as an important opportunity to connect with farmers, stakeholders, consumers, and underline the importance of potatoes for smallholders, for nutrition and food security.

**Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)**

I would like to come in on this and simply say that we very much appreciate and hope that many of you had the opportunity today to visit the Potato Bio-diversity Exhibit in the atrium here in the building, and a big thank you to the Government of Peru and many of the others of you who have been so supportive of taking this particular commodity and product spotlight forward, but again I would encourage everyone to take advantage of visiting the atrium and learning a little bit more about the potato.

**Ms Baoying ZHU (China) (Original Language Chinese)**

Well it goes very smoothly, I do not want to interrupt the rhythm, and we are very supportive of the comments by the Canadian colleague, we are very supportive of this proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think we can jump to conclusions.

Item 15.4, *Proposal for an International Day of the Potato*.

1. The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 171st Session to declare the annual observance of the International Day of the Potato on 30 May and adopted resolution 10/2023 set out in appendix annexed to this Report.

Do Members wish to come in to comment? If not, this concludes Agenda Sub-Item 15.4.

**Item 17. Biennial Theme 2024-25**  
**Point 17. Thème biennal 2024-2025**  
**Tema 17. Tema bienal para 2024-25**

**CHAIRPERSON**

I move to already our last Item. Item 17, *Biennial Theme 2024-25: Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life, to achieve Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals*, document C 2023/30.

The introduction of Ms Maria Elena Semedo, Deputy Director General, has been published on the Conference web page.

**Introduction to Item 17: Biennial Theme 2024-25**

*Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General*

Water underpins all the Sustainable Development Goals, yet we are facing a global water crisis –water scarcity, droughts and/or floods and deteriorating water quality, aggravated by climate change. Currently, 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, of whom more than 733 million live in

arid countries with high and critical water stress. At the same time, some 1.81 billion people are directly exposed to floods, which pose a significant risk to lives and livelihoods, with global flood losses of around USD 20 billion in 2021. Those who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods are often the worst affected, potentially putting their livelihoods, food security and nutrition at serious risk. Between 2008 and 2018, floods caused a total loss of USD 21 billion in crop and livestock production in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). Agriculture, accounting for 72 percent of global freshwater withdrawals, is central to addressing these challenges, which urgently require the development and scaling-up of innovative approaches and increased investments in agriculture and water systems, to adapt to climate impacts and to build resilience in agriculture and rural areas, as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There is an increased need for better water management in agriculture, for agriculture and by agriculture, recognizing the critical linkages between water, land, climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity, energy, agricultural sub-sectors (crops and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) and food security. Growing demand for water by all sectors triggers the need for understanding the trade-offs and (re-)allocating water through multi-stakeholder dialogues, greater infrastructure investments and effective management, better information and science, innovation and technologies, and stronger capacity and adaptability. In the absence of effective and inclusive governance, increased competition for freshwater can exacerbate already severe inequalities in access and inefficiency in use. Those most at risk are the poorest and most vulnerable groups, such as smallholder farmers, fishers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, youth and women. In the worst cases, increased competition can lead to conflicts at all levels.

It is against this backdrop, with the clear mandates provided in the FAO Constitution – the Basic Texts – that FAO proposes integrated water resources management (IWRM) as an integral and strategic approach to achieving each of the *four betters* - *better production, better nutrition, a better environment* and a *better life*, leaving no one behind.

#### **FAO's strategic and coherent IWRM approach to the four betters:**

**Better Production** – Increased and sustainable water productivity and water use efficiency, of both rainfed and irrigated agroecosystems, can generate increased crop yields and productivity (including multiple crops per year) and improved livelihood and nutrition with benefits to smallholder farmers, vulnerable groups and rural communities. Resilience of smallholder farmers and their production systems would increase against climate variability and extreme climate events, such as floods and droughts, through adaptive water management and disaster risk reduction/management measures. FAO seeks to improve livestock, inland fisheries and aquaculture production efficiency and reduce their negative impacts on water as well as strengthen the safe use of non-conventional water resources in agriculture, such as treated recycled wastewater and saline water, in production systems and areas where agricultural production is water-constrained, as well as to conserve water.

**Better Nutrition** – FAO seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets, while optimizing the volume and quality of water used in agrifood production systems. Through the reduction of water pollution, negative impacts on human, animal and ecosystem health can be avoided with particular importance of reducing the incidence of infant and child diarrhea, which is a key cause of malabsorption of nutrients.

**Better Environment** – Improved management of soils, land, forests, lakes, rivers and wetlands helps to reduce and manage flood risks and droughts and their impacts, increase water harvesting, infiltration and soil moisture retention, recharge aquifers, and contribute to water atmospheric circulation as well as the stability of local water cycles and microclimates. Better water management maintains river flows, improves water quality, quantity and timing in rivers, aquifers and other inland water bodies as well as in coastal areas, contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, fisheries, and supporting terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

**Better Life** – A better life means ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, food security and adequate nutrition, increasing the income and improving living conditions of farmers and rural communities; securing land and water tenure and access to other natural resources, which allow

building of prosperous and peaceful communities; and ensuring women's rights and reducing gender inequalities, benefiting thus the wellbeing of the overall community.

### **Water in FAO's future work**

Considering FAO's mandate in working on water, land and agriculture in addressing the global water-climate-biodiversity crises and achieving food security, FAO is in a unique position to support IWRM and to scale up agricultural solutions that link water with climate change action, disaster risk reduction, forest management, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity, soil and land management, nutrition, food safety, antimicrobial resistance and One Water One Health to achieve interwoven benefits and reduce further water risks.

Building upon FAO's rich experience and comprehensive work on water, and following the guidance provided by the Governing Bodies, a suite of programmatic water initiatives (including those suggested in document CL 171/6) will be implemented in partnership with Members and partners, including within the framework of UN-Water, to advance effective water management in agrifood systems for food security and climate resilience.

These initiatives will support FAO Members in their transition to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems as outlined in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and contribute to the five objectives of integrated land and water resources management:

- effective and inclusive soil, land and water governance;
  - conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil, land and water resources;
  - increased adaptation and resilience to climate change and reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
  - integrated soil-land-water solutions; and
  - optimized soil-land-water data and information systems for agrifood system transformation.
- The

Conference is invited to:

- (i) recognize FAO's broad mandate in promoting integrated water resources management in achieving its purposes, as defined in the Basic Texts;
- (ii) welcome the suggested programmatic initiatives on water and request FAO to fully integrate them in related working areas;
- (iii) request FAO to enhance partnerships and mobilize resources to implement these programmatic initiatives; and
- (iv) approve the proposed theme: "Water resources management for the four betters: *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals" for Governing Bodies' sessions to be held during the 2024-25 biennium.

*Comments from Members*  
*Commentaires des Membres*  
*Observaciones de los Miembros*

### **COLOMBIA**

*Presentado el sábado 10 de junio 2023 a las 12.18*

Colombia, como potencia hídrica mundial, considera que la gestión de los recursos hídricos es fundamental para el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 de Desarrollo Sostenible, al tiempo que reconocemos que la FAO tiene, entre sus mandatos, la promoción de la gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria para todas las personas, mejorar las condiciones de vida de las poblaciones rurales y elevar los niveles de vida. Asimismo, el Plan Nacional de Desarrollo "Colombia Potencia Mundial para la Vida" reconoce al agua, la biodiversidad



y las personas como las bases del ordenamiento territorial. Dicho plan busca un cambio en la planificación del ordenamiento y del desarrollo del territorio, donde la protección de los determinantes ambientales para garantizar el derecho a la alimentación sean objetivos centrales.

En ese sentido, Colombia acoge el tema propuesto “Gestión de los recursos hídricos para lograr las cuatro mejoras (una producción, una nutrición, un medio ambiente y una vida mejores) con miras al cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible” y espera aportar en las discusiones y espacios que surjan en este bienio.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 10:10*

The United States of America recognizes the inextricable tie between advancing water security and responding to accelerating climate change and applauds FAO for its vision integrating water into its biennial programme of work. Around the world, water crises are becoming more frequent and intense – undermining public health and directly constraining economic growth because sectors such as agriculture, health, industry, and energy rely on water availability, quality, and affordability.

The recent destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, which has triggered massive flooding in Ukraine and resulted in the evacuation of thousands of Ukrainians, is an example of how water infrastructure destruction can rapidly and negatively exacerbate food security, livelihoods, and agricultural production. It bears repeating that the latest crises for agriculture and the environment as a result of this crucial dam’s destruction would not exist had Russia not launched and continued brutally to conduct its unconscionable, unprovoked war against Ukraine.

The combined effects of growing populations, rising incomes, and expanding cities will see demand for water rising exponentially, while supply becomes more erratic and uncertain. Unless action is taken soon, water could become scarce in regions where it is currently abundant – such as Central Africa and East Asia – and scarcity will worsen in regions where water is already in short supply – such as the Middle East and the Sahel in Africa.

Recognizing that global water security is essential to the United States of America’s national security, the Biden-Harris administration in June 2022 released the White House Action Plan on Global Water Security, which laid out an innovative, whole-of-government approach to address the full scope of global water issues and mobilize the United States of America’s departments and agencies around concrete actions to achieve our vision of a water-secure world. This set of actions complement President Biden’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience – or ‘PREPARE’. PREPARE brings together the full force of our federal government to help more than half a billion people adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change in this decade. This cannot be done without water management being front and center.

In the water-food-energy nexus, technology, governance, and finance must work together to share improved sources of data, deploy innovative technologies, ensure planners work together, and create incentives for change. The United States of America will continue to work with partners to achieve the goal of a water secure world where people have sustainable supplies of water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet human, economic, and ecosystem needs.

We must redouble our efforts moving forward from the UN Water Conference this year to keep up momentum into COP 28, where adaptation and resilience will feature prominently. This includes multilateral conversations and within our own governments — making water resources management policy part of all conversations.

The United States of America will continue to work with partners to achieve the goal of a water secure world, where people have sustainable supplies of water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet human, economic, and ecosystem needs through the rest of the Water Action Decade and beyond.

## **ARGENTINA**

*Presentado el lunes 12 de junio 2023 a las 13.07*

En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.

Al tiempo de agradecer la elaboración del documento, la Argentina realiza los siguientes comentarios en línea con las conclusiones del 135° Comité del Programa, endosado por el 172° Consejo de la FAO:

La gestión de los recursos hídricos es un tema crucial para lograr mejoras en la producción, nutrición, medio ambiente y calidad de vida, en línea con la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Apreciamos la información actualizada proporcionada y reconocemos los progresos realizados por la FAO en relación con la gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Es importante destacar la responsabilidad encomendada a la FAO, dentro del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, sobre los indicadores 6.4.1 y 6.4.2 del ODS 6. En ese marco, es fundamental que FAO mantenga la congruencia en el abordaje de esta temática según su mandato específico y que, a partir de allí, trabaje sobre sus ventajas comparativas para impulsar la eficiencia en el uso del agua y brindar respuestas frente al estrés hídrico, por ejemplo, promoviendo sistemas de riego sostenibles o tecnologías que estimulen la conservación del agua. La colaboración de la FAO con ONU-Agua es fundamental para trabajar en estas áreas, en el marco de una sola Naciones Unidas.

Ello ya fue expresado por la propia FAO en el documento PC 133/5 Sup. 1 –documento que es parte del trabajo del presente bienio- en donde frente a la evaluación sobre el trabajo de la Organización en la materia, la actual administración reivindicó su rol de custodio de los indicadores 6.4.1 y 6.4.2 del ODS 6 y, a la vez, en el párrafo 8 mencionó que “en el marco general de ONU-Agua, las cuestiones relativas a la calidad, impacto eco-sistémico y participación en torno al agua, entre otros elementos, corresponden al mandato de otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas”.

En esa línea, la Argentina entiende que sería inadecuado promover esquemas de trabajo sobre temáticas relativas a la gobernanza del agua, tratamiento de aguas transfronterizas y/ o precio del agua, entre otros elementos, ya que, en primer lugar, cuestiones sobre soberanía de recursos naturales de los países escapan ampliamente al mandato de FAO y, segundo lugar, no es función del Organismo evaluar (o influenciar) procesos intra-nacionales, bilaterales o regionales en esta materia.

Por otra parte, es crucial reconocer que no existen soluciones universales para la gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos. Este principio debe guiar el trabajo de la FAO en esta esfera, entendiendo la diversidad de contextos y necesidades en diferentes regiones sobre la base de los requerimientos específicos de los países. Es fundamental que la FAO mantenga su liderazgo técnico y sus conocimientos especializados para fortalecer la colaboración intersectorial, especialmente en términos de eficiencia en el uso del agua, riego sostenible, aplicación de tecnologías para el uso resiliente del recurso y superación de situaciones de estrés hídrico. Debemos considerar tanto las dimensiones cualitativas como cuantitativas de este recurso vital.

Recordamos la importancia de respetar el equilibrio regional cuando partes interesadas externas participen en el debate sobre cuestiones sustantivas o la preparación de documentos que, de nuevo, deberán enfocarse en la promoción del uso sostenible del agua para la agricultura y no en su gobernanza. La inclusión de perspectivas y solidas experiencias regionales son fundamentales para una gestión efectiva de los recursos hídricos. En el caso de nuestra región, América Latina y el Caribe, existen notables contribuciones en esta temática, por ejemplo, desarrolladas por IICA, que podrían iluminar el trabajo de FAO.

Es crucial que las acciones de la FAO en materia de gestión integrada de los recursos hídricos incluyan los enfoques de los países en desarrollo. Sus conocimientos y su experiencia son valiosos para una gestión sostenible y equitativa del agua.

Finalmente, en cuanto a la creación del mecanismo “Un Agua, Una Salud”, reiteramos la necesidad de su abordaje sea debatido con los Miembros a fin de privilegiar el trabajo del enfoque “Una Salud” ya que éste aborda la cuestiones a las que hace referencia la línea programática propuesta.

Esperamos que la FAO mantenga una amplia colaboración con los Miembros en el seguimiento de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Agua de 2023. Además, invitamos a la FAO a informar sobre los resultados y medidas de seguimiento adoptadas en relación con este importante evento.

### **THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 17:17*

The Russian Federation is not opposed to the adoption of the proposed theme for the Governing Bodies sessions for the 2024-2025 biennium: “Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals”. We recognize that FAO has a mandate to work on water resources: the corresponding goal (3) is set out in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

We support FAO’s call for increased partnerships and resource mobilization for implementing programme initiatives related to water.

### **AUSTRALIA**

*Submitted Monday 12 June 2023, 18:02*

Australia is pleased to endorse “integrated water resources management” as the topic for General Debate of the 43rd Session of the Conference, and as the biennial theme for Governing Body sessions in 2024-2025.

Water resources management is crucial for boosting climate adaptation and resilience as well as for achieving global food security and sustainable agrifood systems. Accordingly, we welcome FAO’s increased engagement on this priority area, in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies. In this regard, we highlight the importance of promoting the intrinsic linkages of water resources management to a range of Sustainable Development Goals under the custodianship of FAO, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole.

Australia reiterates the importance of incorporating Indigenous People’s perspectives and knowledge of water resources management. The Australian Government has made key commitments to increase First Nations water holdings and to ensure that the cultural authority, deep knowledge and expertise of First Nations people is better incorporated into water decisions.

We note FAO’s proposed initiatives to strengthen FAO’s work on integrated water resources management and reaffirm that Australia is well placed to share our significant experience and expertise, and look forward to engaging in future processes over the coming biennium.

### **SWITZERLAND**

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 8:45*

Switzerland thanks FAO for the comprehensive document, reflecting well the latest evidence available, and welcomes its increased engagement in this topic.

Switzerland fully supports the use of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach and would like to make three remarks in this regard based on our experience in many regions:

- IWRM needs to be considered from a water-energy-food-environment (WEFE) perspective. In 25 years, 40 percent of the world population will live in areas with permanent water stress; this number highlights the ever increasing competition between the different social and economic targets which will severely impact food systems.
- Competition for water is not just between sectors, but between regions and countries. 153 countries share rivers, lakes and aquifers, making transboundary water management a necessity; unfortunately conflicts between and within countries around water management keep increasing. While the documents C 2023/2 and C 2023/30 reference the importance of using a watershed/river basin perspective, we would welcome more information regarding FAO’s plans to engage in transboundary IWMR, as this represents a key contribution to build resilience and prevent conflicts.

- We would also welcome more information on how FAO can best link its evidence-based work and experiences with policy making, and how to ensure all sub topics take into account gender- and youth-specific constraints and opportunities.
- We welcome the references to agroecological practices, as Switzerland considers agroecology as one major pathway towards sustainable food systems. The agroecological principles allow for innovative approaches applicable to water management, including, but not limited to, the retention of soil moisture, the development and use of species and varieties adapted to saline, drought-prone or other conditions, to name but two. We encourage FAO to consider the agroecological principles when developing and promoting solutions in the different planned activities.

Furthermore, Switzerland would like to highlight the important role of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and encourages FAO and Members to collaborate further within this framework. Finally, we encourage FAO's active engagement within UN-Water and the implementation of its commitments made during this year's UN Water Conference 2023 in New York. Taking into account that agriculture is both suffering from, and co-responsible for, significant water pollution, we encourage FAO to consider participating in the World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) led by UNEP.

## CANADA

*Submitted Tuesday 13 June 2023, 10:21*

Canada welcomes “Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals” as the theme for the 2024-25 FAO biennium.

Canada underscores the critical importance of water to all life, including for food production, sustainable livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change. We look forward to the results of concerted FAO and Members work in the upcoming biennium on integrated water resources management, and all of the necessary benefits such efforts can bring.

### *Response from Secretariat Réponses du Secrétariat Respuestas de la Secretaría*

FAO congratulates Colombia for including water under the National Development Plan and on advancing territorial development, inclusive of sustainable land use and development with biodiversity and people as its base. FAO thanks Colombia for welcoming the proposed topic “Water resources management for the *four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life* to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals” as FAO's Biennial Theme.

We thank the United States of America (USA) for recognizing water management as central in all policy conversations and in advancing water and food security and climate change resilience among broader human development and economic and environmental goals. FAO applauds the White House Action Plan on Global Water Security and PREPARE and appreciates the USA's support for FAO's integration of water in the biennial work programme. Through dedicated complementary water programmes, FAO pursues doubling efforts toward the commitments of the UN 2023 Water Conference and enhancing synergies among partners and programmes with particular attention to targeted approaches in certain regions and through thematic initiatives, such as the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) of the USA and Addressing Water Scarcity in Agriculture and the environment (AWSAMe) of FAO, the U.S. Action Plan on Global Water Security, PREPARE and the National Water Roadmaps towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FAO appreciates Argentina's points in highlighting FAO's comparative advantage in promoting sustainable irrigation technologies, overall system sustainability, as well as FAO's statistical work on fulfilling its custodian role in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 indicators, 6.4.1 and 6.4.2, in relation to water use efficiency and water stress. FAO, as a member of UN-Water, will ensure that joint efforts prevent duplication while scaling-up coordinated and synergistic activities.

The Secretariat fully concurs with Argentina's recognition that there are no universal solutions for integrated water resources management. This principle guides FAO's work in this area, understanding the diversity of contexts and needs in different regions and countries, as reflected in Conference document C2023/2, *The State of Food and Agriculture: Integrated Water Resources Management*.

FAO welcomes the contribution from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in complementing FAO's work in agriculture water management and any other potential cooperation.

FAO appreciates the support from the Russian Federation for the proposed Biennial Theme 2024-25: "Water resources management for the *four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life*, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals" as well as for the support for FAO's call for increased partnership and resource mobilization for implementation.

FAO appreciates the endorsement from Australia of integrated water resources management (IWRM) as the topic for the General Debate of the 43rd Session of the Conference and as the biennial theme for Governing Body sessions in 2024-2025.

FAO reaffirms the importance of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and knowledge in FAO's programme implementation. FAO welcomes the sharing of Australia's experience and expertise in this regard as well as in the implementation of integrated water resources management. FAO thanks Switzerland for supporting increased engagement in IWRM approach. The water-energy-food-ecosystem Nexus (WEFE Nexus) approach is embedded in FAO's programmes from irrigation water resources management to climate actions and reinforces Switzerland's comment. FAO's watershed/basin work supports Members in information and multi-stakeholder engagements (inclusive of gender and youth and Indigenous Peoples) towards sustainable management of the resource. As a founding partner of the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform), FAO also works on technical matters to promote IWRM in transboundary waters. FAO participates and works in tandem with UN-Water members in collective support on related issues through FAO's databases, portals and trainings that can address local, regional and global issues. FAO's AQUASTAT includes information reported on wastewater and reuse, for which FAO participates and contributes to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-led World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) in both advisory and technical roles.

With partners and through FAO's projects, various evidence-based work and experiences are shared and provide the basis for policy enhancements with Members. Soil moisture combined with crop varieties in addressing drought and soil salinity conditions are topics supported by the FAO Global Soil Partnership, agriculture management in arid and semi-arid regions, the Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and the AWSAME Initiative. FAO thanks Switzerland for its contribution to WASAG and will continue to accelerate the multi-partner programme.

FAO appreciates Canada's support for water resources management and for the Biennial Theme. We will provide periodic reporting in this regard.

Finally, we thank the European Union (EU) for supporting the proposed Biennial Theme 2024-25 on water resources management. The EU's strong support for water management initiatives through the Global Gateway is most appreciated. FAO reaffirms its willingness for joint and coordinated actions through water in climate action and sustainable food systems among other integrated and WEFE Nexus solutions. FAO supports water tenure dialogues and approaches for effective water governance, and thanks the EU for noting FAO's commitment to the UN Water Action Agenda.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

Members, do you wish to take the floor on this Item? Management, do you wish to come in? Then we can already go to the proposed conclusion.

Item 17, *Biennial Theme 2024-25*.

1. The Conference approved *the Biennial Theme 2024-25, Water Resources Management for the Four Betters, Better Production, Better Nutrition, A Better Environment, and A Better Life*, to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Do Members wish to comment on this? If not, this concludes Agenda Item 17.

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

I think we had a discussion on the way, I think it is "*the 2030 Agenda*". I think we had this discussion at various instances at the last Council and the official title is "*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", in short form "*the 2030 Agenda*", not "*the Agenda 2030*". I think there was a [XX] of the United States repeatedly in the last Council.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Yes, I think you are right, sorry for that. We will change it to the official title as used by the UN, "*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", we can also drop "*goals*". I think this is the way we should write it down, right?

**Ms Renate HAHLEN (European Union)**

If I may come back, I think "*the goals*" are now dropped. If he can perhaps say, "*the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals*".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I thought your argument was that the "*Agenda 2030*" is the agenda about sustainable development, right? So, it includes the "Sustainable Development Goals".

We try to be correct but we also try to prevent duplication, and if the "*2030 Agenda*" contains the "*Sustainable Development Goals*", it should read, the "*2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*". Maybe someone should Google it now. Is this correct? Yes, this is correct.

Then we change it into this, and I look around the room again, if this is acceptable to you all. we conclude this Item as it reads now.

Agenda Item 17, *Biennial Theme 2024-25*

1. The Conference approved *the Biennial Theme 2024-25, Water Resources Management for the Four Betters, Better Production, Better Nutrition, A Better Environment, and A Better Life*, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is so decided.

I have an extra request and because we are so quickly here, I did not give people a chance to come in on the right Agenda Item. Minister from Peru, you would like to comment on I believe the Item on the *Year of the Potato*.

**Su Excelencia Christian Alfredo BARRANTES BRAVO (Perú)**

Justamente los primeros indicios de la domesticación de este producto se encontraron en el Perú hace aproximadamente 5 000 años; que su cultivo ha sido fundamental para el desarrollo de las culturas pre-Inca e Inca, en donde se desarrollaron incluso procesos de transformación que permitieron su conservación, así como su administración a partir de estructuras conocidas como "tambos" que formaban parte del sistema incaico de seguridad alimentaria.

Con el tiempo, la papa pasó a la región andina, a Europa y posteriormente al mundo entero. Hoy destaca la importancia de su producción mundial que sobrepasa las 380 millones de toneladas al año y que ha dejado una huella significativa en la alimentación mundial, la economía y las actividades sociales, culturales e históricas de distintas civilizaciones.

En el Perú desde hace varios años, desde el año 2005, se estableció el Día Nacional de la Papa el 30 de mayo tomando en consideración su aporte nutricional y la importancia de la conservación de la biodiversidad. En el marco de esta propuesta compartimos en el primer piso con todos ustedes una exposición fotográfica y una muestra artística de variedades de papa elaboradas por finos artesanos y

ceramistas del país que permiten apreciar la biodiversidad de este tubérculo y su contribución a la seguridad alimentaria y a la economía global.

Finalmente, quiero agradecer a los países amigos, a los organismos internacionales y las organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONG) que han acompañado este proceso para el establecimiento del Día Internacional de la Papa cuya primera celebración se realizará el 30 de mayo de 2024. Juntos podemos enfatizar el valor crucial de la papa en la seguridad alimentaria, la reducción de la pobreza y la promoción de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles en todo el mundo.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Because we are so quick I look around whether I did not miss anyone else. If not, I am already about to close the proceedings of Commission 1, that is until the Drafting Commission is meeting. I thank you all for helping doing this so quickly and reaching those concise conclusions.

What I also would like to mention here is that the Drafting Committee came up with a Chairperson, South Africa. I thank you for taking up that responsibility, and I wish the Drafting Commission good luck in getting the Report ready for adoption.

If I am not mistaken, the Drafting Committee will meet Wednesday and we will reconvene tentatively Thursday at 14:00 hours but that will be confirmed through the Journal of the Conference.

Mali, of course I was not going to forget you, as my Deputy Chair, my Vice Chair and let me give you the floor now to address us as well.

#### **M. Aly COULIBALY (Mali)**

Monsieur le Président, avant de clore, je voudrais, avec votre permission, vous féliciter pour la conduite des travaux et surtout féliciter également les membres de la FAO, la Direction pour sa présence permanente, constante aux travaux de la Commission. Tous les points examinés ont été soutenus par la FAO à des niveaux très élevés. Ceci dénote toute l'importance qu'elle accorde aux travaux de notre Commission.

Je voudrais également profiter de l'occasion pour saluer les interprètes, et surtout remercier vous et tous vos collaborateurs du Secrétariat, pour la diligence. A vu d'œil, on a l'impression que ça a été un exercice aisé, facile, et j'avoue sincèrement que vous avez prouvé encore une fois tout le talent qui vous caractérise, en simplifiant au maximum et en vous attelant à l'essentiel. Félicitations et bonne chance pour la fin de nos travaux.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Those were excellent closing remarks so I should not add too much, but what I would like to repeat is thanks to the interpreters and the excellent Secretary that have guided me through this. Without them and the good preparations we could not have been so efficient and smooth, so thank you all for that.

With that, I think I can close now. We may have a few loose ends but we pass them on to the Drafting Committee, and communications on our reconvening will go through the Journal of the Conference. So, thank you all. I wish you a good remainder of the day, and of course a good continuation of the Conference.

Meeting adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 17:54 hours*

*La séance est levée à 17 h 54*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 17.54*



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粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

**Forty-third Session  
Quarante-troisième session  
43.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 1-7 July 2023  
Rome, 1-7 juillet 2023  
Rome, 1-7 de julio de 2023**

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I  
TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I  
TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

**6 July 2023**

The Third Meeting was opened at 14:05 hours  
Mr Marcel Beukeboom,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 05  
sous la présidence de M Marcel Beukeboom,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 14.05  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Marcel Beukeboom,  
Presidente de la Comisión I

Portions marked as [XX] were inaudible due to technical reasons. Please submit all corrections  
to: [Verbatim-Team@fao.org](mailto:Verbatim-Team@fao.org)

Les parties signalées par [XX], pour des raisons techniques, étaient inaudibles. Veuillez communiquer  
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**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF COMMISSION I  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I  
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues of Commission I, good afternoon to all and thank you for being back here. We will now adopt the Report of Commission I.

I would like to thank you again for entrusting me with the responsibility of Chairing this Commission. I would also like to thank you all for your verbal and written interventions, which led to productive deliberations on the conclusions of the items in our agenda, and efficient proceedings of Commission I, including through the Written Correspondence Procedure.

Thanks to your precious collaboration, we concluded all our items in only one day – congratulations to what might be one of the fastest Commission I ever.

I would like to invite the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I, Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard from South Africa, to present the Report.

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF COMMISSION I**

Distinguished delegates, I am pleased as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I to present our Report for your consideration.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Ambassador Marcel Beukeboom for his leadership and his excellent conduct of the meeting that facilitated the work of our Drafting Committee, and in fact allowed us to meet one day earlier.

I would also like to thank the Drafting Committee Members for the very efficient meeting we had on Tuesday and we only managed to conclude this meeting in 70 minutes, which I believe is a record.

Finally, my appreciation to the Secretary and the team – thank you very much; and to the interpreters and technicians for their assistance and availability during the meeting.

With these comments, I would now like to propose the adoption of the Report *en bloc*.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to invite the Commission I to adopt the Report *en bloc*.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

This means the Report is adopted.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

Thank you very much also for all your efforts and the spirit of cooperation, and I am pleased to announce that Commission I has concluded its work.

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues of Commission I, thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of Chairing Commission I. My gratitude goes to all Members for your insights, hard work, good spirit of cooperation, as well as constructive exchanges, which led us to productive deliberations and successful conclusions.

Let me also thank the Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, His Excellence Ali Coulibaly, as well as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Mr Barend Jacobus Lombard, all Members of the Drafting Committee and also the Secretariat of Commission I, for every effort you made to ensure this meeting's success.

With this, I present the Report of Commission I to the Plenary.

*The meeting rose at 14:09 hours*

*La séance est levée à 14 h 09*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 14.09*