

ARC/10/PL/REP

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR
AFRICA**

PLENARY SESSION

Luanda, Angola, 06 – 07 May 2010

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference – Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) – Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network

The Conference

1. endorsed the vision, as well as the proposals on structure and functioning
2. expressed the view that the criteria on country coverage provided in the IPA were theoretically good but not practical, particularly in the case of Africa
3. recommended that
 - special needs of Africa be kept in mind and that a strong network of country offices, which was essential to meet these needs, be provided;
 - multiple accreditation for country offices would not be suitable for African countries who had urgent and pressing needs for help and support;
 - FAO maintains and possibly increases the number of country offices in the Region;
 - Decentralized Offices be strengthened through both financial and technical resources and there be better training for staff in these offices;
 - the criteria for selection and appointment to FAOR positions should be revised periodically based on the evolving needs of the countries;
 - there be a time limit for Member countries to provide feedback on proposed appointments made by the Director General to avoid FAO Representative positions being vacant for prolonged periods,.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The Conference

4. supported the proposal for the creation of a regional ad hoc steering group in support of the CFS reform to be led by the standing Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa, who would work in collaboration with voluntary Members.
5. expressed concern on the need to improve coordination among national, sub-regional and regional groups and recommended that the steering group addresses this issue.

Report on FAO Activities in Region, (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa

The Conference

6. endorsed the report which highlighted key outcomes of activities conducted in the region during 2008-2009 to implement the recommendations of the 25th ARC and the field programme.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the African Region in the following biennium

7. The Conference

- appreciated the coherence between the proposed priority areas and the CAADP objectives;
- endorsed the priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13
- recommended that FAO
 - supports Member Countries to prepare appropriate investment plans;
 - ensures that sufficient data be available to monitor the results by the end of 2013.

Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

8. The Conference recommended that a proper in-depth evaluation of the proposal of a global SSC, including for sustainability, be carried out for an eventual endorsement by the Finance Committee and Council, for inclusion in the next Programme of Work and Budget

Discussion Items

FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

For the attention of FAO

9. The Conference recommended that FAO continues and intensifies its support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Implementation Agency, and the Regional Economic Communities

For the attention of Governments

10. The Conference recommended that Member Countries
- strengthen institutional and human capacity building, especially in developing post-compact investment programmes and sector policies;
 - raise awareness about CAADP and the visibility of the related interventions at the national/regional level;
 - advocate resource mobilization and follow-up to ensure that pledges already made are honoured;
 - disseminate new technologies, appropriate policies and strategies to ensure that the objectives of the CAADP are not compromised;
 - mainstream CAADP into national planning process and to reinforce gender concerns in both the CADP Compact and post-Compact processes;
 - ensure that the multiplicity of development initiatives at the national level are coordinated and streamlined with that of the overall CAADP objectives;

- monitor and evaluate the achievement of CAADP targets including the Maputo 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and rural development;
- facilitate south-south cooperation to improve the post-compact interventions;
- provide clarity on the issues in its future support to CAADP Compacts as there seems to be a general misunderstanding of the relationship between the BIPPS prepared in 2004 and the post-CAADP investment plans.

Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

11. The Conference acknowledged that
- climate change is a complex and important issue with direct implications on food security and natural resources management.
 - Africa faces serious challenges from climate change which are directly linked to food insecurity.
 - climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national and regional level alongside other crosscutting issues.

For the attention of Governments

12. The Conference recommended that Member countries make effort to mitigate impact of climate change on African agriculture;

For the attention of FAO

13. The Conference recommended that FAO
- collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security;
 - develops forecasting models, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation;
 - provides access to available facilities such as carbon credit;
 - establishes data monitoring systems;
 - reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building in simplifying issues and technical support to apply effective technologies such as conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted, as well as considerations of gender issues;
 - facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation;

Other Matters

14. The Conference recommended that FAO initiates a dialogue with other UN partners on facilitating more effective country level assistance on attaining food security to address concerns on the coordination of interventions by UN Bodies at the national and regional level.

15. The Conference recognized the increasing interest of countries to share national experiences and success stories and suggested that provision be made in future conferences for country presentations and information exchange.
16. The Conference welcomed the declaration of the Civil Society Organizations prepared at their meeting held in Luanda on 5th May 2010 and recognized their commitment to attaining food security in the region.
17. The Conference agreed to honour the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, and recommended the submission of a proposal to the FAO Council on setting up a food security award in his name at the FAO
18. The Conference also recommended that the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, kindly solicits the assistance of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, to submit a request to his peers, during the next African Union Summit, to set up a Jacques Diouf Prize for food security at the African Union.

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Organization of the Conference

1. The Ministerial Segment of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa was held in Luanda, the Republic of Angola, from 6 to 7 May 2010.
2. The Conference was attended by 125 delegates from 35 Member Countries of the Region, of which 17 were represented at Ministerial level; 1 observer from the Holy See, and 12 observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of delegates is given in Appendix B and the list of documents in Appendix C.

Inaugural Ceremony

3. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Belas Conference Centre, Luanda, the Republic of Angola in the presence of His Excellency Mr Fernando Da Piedade Dias Dos Santos, Vice President of the Republic of Angola, Mr Antonio Paulo Kassouma, President of the National Assembly, Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, and Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of the Republic of Angola. The Vice President welcomed delegates on behalf of the President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola and the people of Angola.

Statement of the Director-General of FAO

4. The Director General of FAO indicated that it was a great honour and pleasure to attend the Twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in the beautiful city of Luanda. He expressed his gratitude, on behalf of FAO, to the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, the Government and people of Angola for hosting the Conference.
5. He informed the Regional Conference that while the world was facing serious financial and economic crisis, the poorer countries were the most affected. Currently more than 1 billion people are suffering from hunger, and sub-Saharan Africa is most hard hit, with 269 million people malnourished and 30 percent of the population suffering from hunger.
6. The Director General reiterated that Africa is rich in arable land, water and labour and with appropriate policies it has capacity to increase agricultural production, national incomes and food security. However Africa only accounts for about 2% to 3% of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its share in trade in agricultural commodities is less than 2% and declining. Agricultural imports have continued to outpace exports and Africa currently spends 33 billion US dollars on imports, much of which is on food.
7. He stated that the Twenty-Sixth Regional Conference will be examining issues that impact on millions of people in the region. The Conference will discuss priority themes, including FAO support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme(CAADP); implications of climate change for food security; implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal in relation to

decentralized offices network; and reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

8. The Director-General reminded the Conference that it was only five years to 2015, the date set by 192 member governments to halve the number of people suffering from hunger. He made a commitment that with support from member countries, FAO will continue to provide technical assistance in formulating and implementing policies, strategies and programmes aimed at overcoming the challenge of food insecurity in Africa and elsewhere.

9. The full statement is given in Appendix D.

Address by the Independent Chairman of the Council

10. The Independent Chairman of the Council underscored that the Africa Regional Conference marks the beginning of the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) and its success depended on sustained efforts from Member countries and the Secretariat in FAO headquarters and decentralized offices. He briefed the delegates on the implementation of his mandate and emphasized that his work was characterized by collegiality, subsidiarity, ownership, independence and partnership. He then explained the status of the FAO reform, stressing the need for consolidating the momentum, making full use of FAO's outstanding human resources and strengthening internal and external communication systems. He reminded delegates that the Council's powers have been strengthened and that its next session will benefit from the recommendations of the 26th ARC.

11. He briefed delegates on the establishment of the Open Ended Working Group on Effectiveness and Efficiency of Governing Bodies (OEWG), on the preparation of the informal meeting on the integration of regular programme and extra-budgetary funding, and on the preparation of the election of the Director-General in 2011. He reminded delegates that as a result of the Reform, Regional Conferences had become full-fledged governing bodies, which has strengthened governance at the regional level.

12. He informed that the next meetings of the Reform Committee will deal with decentralized offices and the staff rotation policy, and that recommendations from Regional Conferences on these matters will be taken into account. He will ensure that Regional conferences can formulate specific recommendations to the Council on the priority areas for the Regions. In conclusion, he urged delegates to remain focused on the implementation of the Reform, as it will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness at all levels of FAO.

13. The full text of the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council's statement is given in Appendix E.

Address by the Representative of the Holy See

14. The Representative of the Holy See delivered a message to the Conference on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI encouraging African countries to continue working to attain food security for the growing population.

Statement of the Vice President of the Republic of Angola

15. The Vice- President thanked FAO for the confidence given Angola to host the Conference. He indicated that Angola's economy had been highly dependent on oil and diamonds and had not invested sufficiently in agriculture. However, in recent years, Angola had made strides in improving the agricultural sector, increasing from 5% to 58% contribution to GDP. There has been increased investment in Agriculture which has brought about great improvements in the lives of the rural communities.

16. The Vice-president indicated that Angola was well resourced with 47 river basins and has good potential in crops such as cassava, but lacked the production capacity in rice, maize, corn, dairy and meat products, which had to be imported. This he recognized as being a great challenge for Angola.

17. He informed that Angola had been making great investments in restructuring agricultural research, setting up special lines of credit, and establishing industrial centres.

18. He also indicated that Angola was particularly concerned in ensuring that potable water was available not only in the urban and industrial areas but also in rural communities, where the emphasis on agriculture was in order to stem the rural-urban drift.

19. The full text of the Vice President's statement is in Appendix F.

Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs

20. In handing over the chairmanship, Honourable Gideon Ndambuki, Assistant Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya and Outgoing Chairman of the Regional Conference for Africa shared some remarks with the Conference.

21. He indicated that many of the member countries had witnessed stagnation in agricultural productivity, high fertilizer and fuel costs for farm operations, as well as effects of climate change. The situation caused an increase in food prices and hence affecting survival of the people of the African region, especially the most vulnerable in the societies. Many of the people were still living below the poverty line at less than a dollar a day.

22. He reminded the Conference of the practical recommendations made at the last Conference to resolve the food crisis and that it was important to look at the more lasting solutions to the situation in the future. He urged the delegates to exchange information on the various measures the member countries are taking to address the situation.

23. The full text of the Outgoing Chairman's statement is in Appendix G.

24. The Conference approved by acclamation the nomination of the following bureau:

Chairperson: **Republic of Angola**
Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga
Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries

First Vice-Chairperson: **Equatorial Guinea**
Honourable Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Second Vice-Chairperson: **Cape Verde**
Honourable Jose Maria Veiga
Minister for Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources

Rapporteurs: **Cameroon**
H.E. Dominique Awono-Essama
Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to Italy and
Permanent Representative to FAO in Rome

Uganda
Robert Sabiiti
Alternative Permanent Representative, Uganda Embassy in
Rome

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

25. The Conference reviewed and adopted the Agenda and Timetable with an amendment on the Timetable (Appendix A).

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of FAO Conference – Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) – Towards a New Vision for the Decentralized Offices Network

26. The document ARC/10/2 reports on the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome from 16-18 November 2009, which adopted a Declaration consisting of four strategic objectives and five Rome Principles for eradicating hunger from the world at the earliest possible date. The document also reports on the Thirty Sixth Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome from 18-23 November 2009 which discussed the current state of food and agriculture. It also reviewed the work of the Organization, endorsed the FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019, the Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and adopted the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-11. In addition, the document reports on the overall progress made on the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), which was appreciated by the Conference, and its impact on the Decentralized Offices (DOs) network. The document includes an Addendum on a medium to long term vision for the DOs network which was prepared at the request of CoC-IEE, with the endorsement of the Conference, for discussion and advice from the Regional Conferences.

27. In the presentation of the document to the Regional Conference by the Secretariat, the outcomes of the World Summit on Food Security and the Thirty Sixth Conference were highlighted. It was also pointed out that the Summit supported the work of regional development frameworks such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under NEPAD. In relation to the Immediate Action Plan (IPA), the overall progress made, and the impact on the Decentralized Offices (DOs) network was presented. Major actions already completed or ongoing including TCP decentralization, greater authorities to DOs on procurement, and transfer of management of Regional Technical Officers and of oversight, administrative and financial responsibility of FAOR's to the Regional Office were clarified. In presenting the addendum it was pointed out that major efforts have been made in regard to decentralization over past years. The

Management's medium to long term vision on the structure and functioning of the DOs network was highlighted, with a request for comment and advice on the vision, as well as on the suggestions in the document about structure and functioning.

28. The Regional Conference:

- endorsed the vision, as well as the proposals on structure and functioning, contained in the addendum to Document ARC/10/2;
- expressed the view that the criteria on country coverage provided in the IPA were theoretically good but not practical, particularly in the case of Africa; and
- the measures introduced by management were an effective way to address the structural deficit in the FAOR network budget.

29. The Regional Conference recommended that

- the special needs of Africa be kept in mind and that a strong network of country offices, which was essential to meet these needs, be provided;
- multiple accreditation for country offices would not be suitable for African countries who had urgent and pressing needs for help and support;
- FAO should maintain and possibly increase the number of country offices in the Region;
- DOs should be strengthened through both financial and technical resources and there should be better training for staff in these offices;
- the criteria for selection and appointment to FAOR positions should be revised periodically based on the evolving needs of the countries;
- in order to avoid FAO Representative positions being vacant for prolonged periods, there should be a time limit for Member countries to provide feedback on proposed appointments made by the Director General.
- conduct of the Africa Regional Conference be reviewed to include a follow up mechanism on the implementation of Conference decisions and reporting of outcomes.
- relationship between permanent representatives of African countries at the FAO in Rome and the regional offices be strengthened

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

30. The Regional Conference welcomed the presence of the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the elements of the reform presented in Document ARC/10/3. The Regional Conference emphasized importance of reflecting national and regional diversity, as well as the multi-stakeholder consultative process. In addition, the

Regional Conference highlighted the importance of inter-sessional activities that are fundamental to the new CFS and should include specific case studies.

31. The Regional Conference supported the proposal for the creation of a regional ad hoc steering group in support of the CFS reform. The steering group could be led by the standing Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa, who would work in collaboration with voluntary Members. This steering group would make initial consultations at sub-regional level and make proposals at the 36th Session of CFS in October 2010 regarding the involvement of regional, sub-regional and other bodies in the multi-stakeholder process. It will also develop and present a draft document with proposals for a cost effective south-south cooperation initiative to strengthen national and regional institutions for food security governance, as proposed by the CFS Chair.

32. The Regional Conference expressed some concerns on the need to improve coordination among national, sub-regional and regional groups and recommended that the steering group addresses this issue.

II PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS

Report on FAO Activities in Region, (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 25th FAO Conference for Africa

33. The Regional Conference endorsed the report which highlighted the key outcomes of the activities of the Regional Office for Africa and the sub-Regional Offices during 2008-2009 on the implementation of the recommendations of the 25th ARC, and the field programme. The Secretariat informed that about 69% of available resources were applied to field programme.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Actions for the African Region in the following biennium

34. In adopting the FAO Strategic Framework 2010-19, the FAO Conference in 2009 put in place a new results-based approach to programme planning, implementation and reporting for the Organization. Members defined clear goals and objectives that they aim to achieve with the help of FAO, incorporating the Millennium Development Goals to reduce hunger by half and make sustainable use of natural resources in food, agriculture and rural development. The FAO Conference in 2009 also adopted a renewed and more inclusive inter-governmental process for review of programme and budget priorities and proposals. The five Regional Conferences are now an important part of this process as they report to the Council through the Programme and Finance committees on FAO performance for the previous biennium and priorities for the current and future biennia.

35. Taking into account sub-regional and country needs, the Regional Office for Africa proposed six main priority areas of FAO technical assistance for the next biennium to the Regional Conference for Africa. These six priority areas are: promote sustainable increase in agriculture production and crop diversification; promote sustainable use and management of natural resources, including land and water, fisheries and forestry; support market access and sanitary measures for better trade; stimulate information and knowledge management; incorporate emergency preparedness and risk management; and formulate and implement effective agricultural policies, while integrating gender concerns as a cross-cutting issue.

36. The Regional Conference:

- appreciated the coherence between the proposed priority areas and the CAADP objectives; and
- endorsed the priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13
- recommended that FAO:
 - supports Member Countries to prepare appropriate investment plans; and
 - ensures that sufficient data will be available to monitor the results by the end of 2013.

Establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre

37. The Organization has established a Shared Services Centre with hubs in Bangkok, Budapest and Santiago to provide low cost and location independent “back office” administrative services and support functions as effectively and efficiently as possible. Reviews carried out during 2008-2009 revealed opportunities to achieve further efficiencies through consideration of a single hub structure. The Organization will carry out additional analysis of such opportunities to assess the effectiveness of services delivered and validate further potential savings. In line with guidance from the Council, the Organization will finalize the business case for a global SSC based on an in-depth analysis, taking into consideration the results of consultations with the Regional Conferences.

38. The Conference

- requested the carrying out of proper in-depth evaluation of the proposal of a global SSC, including for sustainability, and eventual endorsement by the Finance Committee and Council, for inclusion in the next Programme of Work and Budget

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

39. The Conference had on its agenda two discussion items:

- i) FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP
- ii) Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

40. The Report of the Technical Committee, ARC/10/TC, was presented by the Rapporteur for consideration and adoption by the Conference. The Report was adopted with amendments, see Appendix H.

FAO Support to the Accelerated implementation of CAADP

41. The Conference recommended that FAO continues and intensifies its support to the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Implementation Agency, the Regional Economic Communities and the member countries to:

- strengthen institutional and human capacity building, especially in developing post-compact investment programmes and sector policies.
- raise awareness about CAADP and the visibility of the related interventions at the national/regional level.
- advocate resource mobilization and follow-up to ensure that pledges already made are honoured.
- disseminate new technologies, appropriate policies and strategies to ensure that the objectives of the CAADP are not compromised.
- mainstream CAADP into national planning process and to reinforce gender concerns in both the CADP Compact and post-Compact processes.
- ensure that the multiplicity of development initiatives at the national level are coordinated and streamlined with that of the overall CAADP objectives.
- monitor and evaluate the achievement of CAADP targets including the Maputo 10% budgetary allocation to agriculture and rural development.
- facilitate south-south cooperation to improve the post-compact interventions
- provide clarity on the issues in its future support to CAADP Compacts as there seems to be a general misunderstanding of the relationship between the BIPPS prepared in 2004 and the post-CAADP investment plans.

Climate change implications for food security and natural resources management in Africa

42. The Conference noted that
- climate change is a complex and important issue which has direct implications on food security and natural resources management.
 - Africa faces serious concerns from climate change which are directly linked to food insecurity.
 - climate change needs to be addressed primarily at national and regional level alongside other crosscutting issues as a block. There are many links and consequences of climate change to forest conservation, competition for natural resources, especially between humans and animals, desertification with special reference to the Sahel; for example, the issue of the receding Lake Chad.
 - impact could be mitigated through the efforts of the member countries.
43. The Conference recommended that FAO
- collaborates with national Governments in developing institutional capacity building programmes and creating awareness including integration of indigenous knowledge to assist rural communities understand and cope with climate change and as it relates to food security.
 - develops forecasting models, regional and national policy strategies in climatic change mitigation,
 - provides access to available facilities such as carbon credit,
 - establishes data monitoring systems
 - reviews the possibility of providing technical support in capacity building in simplifying issues and technical support to apply effective technologies such as

conservation agriculture and use of germplasm that is locally adapted, as well as considerations of gender issues

- facilitates the convening of a Ministerial meeting to discuss the impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

44. The Conference

- expressed concern on the coordination of interventions by UN Bodies at the national and regional level and recommended that FAO initiates a dialogue with other UN partners on facilitating more effective country level assistance on attaining food security.
- recognized the increasing interest of countries to share national experiences and success stories, the Conference *suggested* that provision be made in future conferences for country presentations and information exchange.
- welcomed the declaration of the Civil Society Organizations prepared at their meeting held in Luanda on 5th May 2010 and *recognized* their commitment to attaining food security in the region.

45. At the suggestion of the Republic of Congo, the 26th FAO Regional Conference agreed to honour the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf.

46. The Conference:

considering:

- the remarkable activities undertaken by FAO in Africa under the leadership of the outgoing Director General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf; and
- the personal commitment and effort of the Director-General of FAO on improving the nutritional level and agricultural production in Africa to combat hunger and poverty to attain food security;

recommended:

- the submission of a proposal to the FAO Council on setting up a food security award in his name at the FAO:
- to the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, to kindly solicit the assistance of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency José Eduardo Dos Santos, to submit a request to his peers, during the next African Union Summit, to set up a Jacques Diouf Prize for food security at the African Union.

adopted the vote of thanks below:

We, Representatives of Governments and Delegates of African countries at the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa, present our warm appreciation and attest our recognition to His Excellency, Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, for the very positive results obtained throughout his three successful terms.

V. CONCLUDING ITEMS

List of Topics to be considered for the 27th Regional Conference for Africa

47. Delegates were invited to suggest topics for discussion at the 27th Regional Conference and the following were adopted by the Conference for the selection of key themes by the Secretariat in consultation with the Member Countries :

- Review of agriculture development programme incentives and disincentives and their impact on agricultural productivity
- Gender mainstreaming in food security initiatives at national and regional level.
- Private sector assessment of government incentives
- Initiatives for mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change
- Progress report on CAADP implementation in the region
- Regional review of fertilizer (including bio-fertilizer) production and availability
- Agro-business and agro-industry development to improve value chain
- Assessment of seeds system in Africa
- GMO issues in African Agriculture - Lessons learnt, taking stock of regulatory aspects, including health and economic impact
- Public /private sector partnership in initiating agricultural programmes to sustain livelihoods and create wealth
- Agricultural mechanisms to increase productivity through livestock, fisheries and forestry.
- Evaluation FAO's post emergency development programme for food security and sustainable livelihoods
- Participation of African countries in setting and implementing international standards in safety and quality of food from plant and animal origin
- South-South Cooperation in agriculture development in the region
- State of staff deployment and budget allocation to Regional Offices in conformity with FAO reform

Date and Place of the Twenty-Seventh FAO Regional Conference for Africa

48. The Conference adopted by acclamation the Republic of Congo's offer to host the 27th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2012 and look forward to an agreement on the date in consultation with the Director-General of FAO.

Adoption of the Report of the Conference (including the Technical Committee Report)

49. The Conference considered and, after a few amendments, adopted its Report by acclamation.

50. The Conference was formally closed by the Chairperson, Honourable Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries of Angola after the adoption of the Luanda Declaration on Investing in Agriculture to ensure Food Security in Africa (Appendix I) presented by Honourable José Luis Xavier Mendes, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

51. A Vote of Thanks to the Government of the Republic of Angola was presented by Honourable Jose Maria Veiga, Minister for Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources of the Republic of Cape Verde.