

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

9th Regional Conference for Africa (ARC)¹, 4 - 8 April 2016, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The Regional Conference for Africa recommended FAO to:

15. Support Member states to promote sound institutional and policy and regulatory frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, fisheries, forestry in the context of national food security and transparent processes for selection of private partners and the projects that will be implemented in the framework of PPPs.

26. The sub-regional consultation for Central Africa identified three priority areas and related actions to: (i) develop innovative value chains in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forests; (ii) support the sustainable development of natural resources; and (iii) strengthen the resilience of rural households to shocks and crises; (iv) effective actions for control and prevention of risks and threats related to human, animal diseases and zoonosis (e.g. Ebola, avian influenza, PPR, trypanosomiasis, anthrax, rabies, etc).

Appendix D

Ministerial Declaration on food security and the agricultural sectors in a changing climate

The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) we submitted ahead of COP21 in Paris outline our climate change policy priorities. Agriculture, forestry and land use feature prominently, reflecting the central importance of these sectors for our economies and societies. With the requisite levels of financial and technical support, we are committed to work with the international community to implement the agriculture, forestry and land use components of our INDCs. We share a common vision that investment in productive and resilient agricultural development are vital to ensuring that our countries – and particularly our poorest and most food-insecure inhabitants – continue to prosper in spite of climate change. We recognize that well-targeted investments in agriculture can simultaneously improve natural resource management, and contribute to adapting to climate change and to mitigating climate change impacts by easing the pressures that drive deforestation and improving soil health and access to water. Investments in agriculture can often generate these important environmental benefits at little or no additional cost.

34th Regional Conference for Latin America and Caribbean (LARC)², 29 February – 3 March 2016, Mexico City, Mexico, among other things

The Regional Conference for Latin America and Caribbean:

21. Urged FAO to highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity and in facilitating trade with consumers

29. Highlighted the value of the forestry sector and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on forests, for achieving inclusive and sustainable rural development

¹ ARC/16/REP

² LARC/16/REP

35. Called for work to continue on the preparation of guidelines to help formulate ecosystem policies to promote all three dimensions of sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – social, economic and environmental – based on countries' practical experience, promoting the development of a regional programme aimed at exchanging experiences and lesson learned by countries in this area.

36. Called on FAO to accord greater importance to the value of forests and forest plantations with regard to risk management and climate change adaptation.

52. Acknowledged that, despite the slowing rate of forest loss in the region, deforestation and forest degradation were still one of the most important environmental problems facing Latin America and the Caribbean

53. Endorsed the LACFC recommendation to analyse the contribution of forests (including agrosilvopastoral systems) to food security, family farming, territorial development, sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and risk management, both financially and in terms of externalities. It also requested boosting the development of cross-cutting agendas linking together agricultural, forestry and environmental issues as part of a holistic territorial approach, and recommended facilitating access to international markets for agricultural products from sustainable systems.

30th session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)³, 9 – 13 May 2016, Antalya, Turkey

The Regional Conference for Europe:

16. The Conference:

d) Underlined the importance of agriculture, fisheries and forestry and their crucial role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy-makers.

22. The Conference:

b) Supported the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium to bring greater focus to FAO's work on: (i) Empowering smallholders and family farms in Europe and Central Asia, and (ii) Agrifood trade and market integration in Europe and Central Asia; as well as attention to strengthening food security and nutrition, natural resource management including fisheries and forestry, and control of animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety hazards.

24. The Conference:

f) Underlined the importance of taking into consideration the trends and roles of the fisheries and forestry sectors, particularly their contribution to sustainable management of natural resources and the achievement of the SDGs.

30. The Conference:

a) Accepted that EFC reports become an integral part of the Regional Conference.

b) Expressed satisfaction with the work undertaken in the region by FAO on forest issues.

³ ERC/16/REP

c) Highlighted the importance of forests and sustainable forest management in contributing to many of the SDGs.

d) Highlighted the importance of boreal forests and their role in regulating global climate, and urged FAO to explore further possibilities for enhancing its work on boreal forests.

e) Invited the EFC and COFFI to continue enhancing their cooperation and their collaboration with relevant forestry-related organizations in the region.

f) Welcomed the EFC recommendations for the attention of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) and encouraged the EFC to continue providing input to the future work of the ERC and COFO.

33rd session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC)⁴, 9 – 13 May 2016, Rome, Italy

33. The Conference noted the major recommendations of the 22nd Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC) and requested FAO to develop a regional forestry and rangeland strategy for NENA

**33rd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific (APRC), 7 – 11 March 2016
Putrajaya, Malaysia**

No recommendations made

**Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America (NARC)⁵, 21-22 March 2016, Ottawa,
Canada**

North American Priorities by FAO Strategic Objectives for 2016-17

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

5. We highlight the importance of FAO remaining focused on its role as a global advisor on forestry, fisheries and aquaculture and emphasize the importance of FAO's ongoing commitment to maintain its technical capacity as it moves forward with its organizational restructuring. To this end, FAO should fully implement the decision taken at the December 2015 FAO Council meeting to undertake an independent "assessment" of the impact of these changes on technical capacity, and to share this with the interested governing bodies and at the 2017 FAO Conference.

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

Key Implementation Items:

2.1 Continue to focus on the FAO Forest Department's forest resource monitoring and information, with emphasis on further incorporating remote sensing data; refining the Global Forest Resource Assessment variables (e.g., natural and planted forest, employment and governance), and further expanding the types of data collected to allow for an improved understanding of the full benefits that forests have to livelihoods and society.

⁴ NERC/16/REP

⁵ C 2017/LIM/1

2.m Continue Forest Department's leadership as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which engages both member states and civil society through key international forest-related organizations and processes.

2.n Continue efforts to improve sustainable forest management practices, for example on wildfire management, and forest climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty

Key Implementation Items:

3.c Continue to focus on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. Place a high priority on conducting research; promoting information on and advocacy of best practices; and assisting governments to adopt policies and laws on land tenure and governance, particularly in favor of advancing women's access to land ownership.