



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

High-level Political Forum 2018

Summary of recommendations from FAO intergovernmental Technical and Governing bodies

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

*Review of **SDG 6**. Water and sanitation; **SDG 7**. Sustainable and modern energy **SDG 11** Cities and human settlements; **SDG 12**. Sustainable consumption and production; **SDG 15**. Terrestrial ecosystems, forests, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity*

Introduction

The FAO Technical Committee, have progressively incorporated the 2030 Agenda in their deliberations, exploring integrated approaches and providing policy guidance on implementing, monitoring and integrating SDGs in national policy making, from a food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems perspective.

The following summary of deliberations provides an overview on the policy recommendations stemming from official sessions of those bodies consistent with the overall theme as well as the individual SDGs under review at the HLPF 2018.

Recommendations for HLPF Consideration

In spite of efforts made hunger is increasing across the planet, in particular in countries in emergency and protracted crisis. Transition to Sustainable Food and Agriculture system would support resilience and well-being of both urban and rural populations.

Sustainable agriculture and food systems and healthy ecosystems ensure the resilience and well-being of both rural and urban populations. The role of agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, and sustainable management and use of natural resources in adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change, to address and prevent risks for natural and man-made disasters is well known.

It is also well known that land degradation, water scarcity, and transboundary pests and diseases floods and other natural and man-made disasters affect the most vulnerable in a disproportionate way, severely impacting on their food security, and threaten the sustainability of agriculture systems alongside the loss of living resources and biodiversity.



Over seventy percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as the main source of their livelihoods. The highest incidence of workers living with their families below the poverty line is associated with employment in agriculture. Many of them are particularly vulnerable to increasing climate variability.

Population increase and rapid urbanization further exacerbate challenges creating increased demand for food and unsustainable consumption patterns, competition over scarce resources and worsening effects and trade offs across different components of sustainable development. For instance population trends are accelerating global demand for forest products and services, as well as for food and agricultural products, which is the single greatest driver of deforestation globally.

Only comprehensive and cross cutting approaches can address the complex challenges and trade-offs, while simultaneously addressing the needs of both the people and the planet.

Policy recommendations stemming from technical and governing bodies hosted in FAO include:

- Continue raising awareness on the importance of genetic resources and forests, for food and agriculture in the context of climate change and promote the mainstreaming of these resources into climate change-related programmes and policies, including at national and regional levels including in line with their respective nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans
- strengthen the contribution of locally adapted genetic resources for food and agriculture and the restoration of degraded lands and forests;
- reinforce national tree seed programmes, and promote appropriate use of this material in forest restoration and reforestation;
- strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to *in situ* conservation of forest genetic resources and crop wild relatives;
- **Transparent and well-functioning food and agricultural markets are essential for ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable consumption and production patterns.** Increase efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of the supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities and to make the results publicly available in a timely manner, to improve market transparency reduce price volatility, inform policy decisions and the coordination of response.

Small scale food producers, family farmers, foresters, indigenous peoples, pastoralists, fisherfolks, in rural, urban and periurban areas are critical agents of change to ensure resilience of their communities and their role need to be recognized.



Small scale food producers, including family farmers, artisanal fisherfolks, pastoralists, foresters, and indigenous peoples are the main preservers of global biodiversity, and their full participation in decision making, is key. Smallholders provide up to 80 percent of the food supply and genetic resources are the raw materials that local communities, breeders and researchers rely upon to improve the quality and output of food production. Breeding and accompanying management improvements contributed to increasing production efficiency.,

In line with deliberations of the negotiations on Climate and the Sendai Framework for DRR, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, integrated policies focusing on food and agriculture systems, as well as territorial and landscape approaches for integrated planning across the rural urban continuum are key elements to prevent and address risks, maintain, restore natural resources and ecosystems, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while ensuring food security, decent jobs and income for vulnerable communities, to support economic growth, and for prevention of risks as well as consolidate long lasting resilience of the communities.

Policy Recommendations stemming from technical and governing bodies of FAO include:

- The integration of smallholders, family farmers and vulnerable producers into markets and value chains is crucially important to ensure that no one is left behind. It is key that local and domestic markets are targeted for these interventions as a priority.
- It is important to develop policies and strategies to support smallholders' integration into markets and value chains. Globally more than 80 percent of smallholders operate in local and domestic markets. Efforts to increase the productivity of smallholder and family farmers to ensure inclusive, gender equitable rural and agricultural development would only have limited impact if linkages to markets and value chains were not strengthened simultaneously. Mainstreaming resilience in all segments of value chain development is complementary measure for integrated approaches at country level.
- There is a critical need for more and better agricultural investment, in particular towards smallholder producers in developing countries. Investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, as well as improved access or rural actors to resources and financial services and investments is crucial for increasing farmers' productivity and integration into markets and strengthening their resilience. It is important for the investment to be responsible in order to be sustainable and benefit those that need it the most.
- Closing knowledge gaps strengthen policy-practitioners interface making technology, innovation and investment on data on the impacts of climate change and other factors to promote more sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems; special focus is needed on access and availability of information and technology to decision makers, in



particular in developing countries, and to the most vulnerable, in particular small scale food producers.

Annex I: Contribution from FAO intergovernmental Technical and Governing bodies

FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

The role of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

COFO is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body, open to all FAO Member Nations. Various stakeholders, including international organizations and non-governmental partners can also participate in the work of COFO. The Committee's tasks include:

- a) periodic reviews of forestry problems of an international/global character with a view to making recommendations for concerted actions by Member Nations, other stakeholders and the Organization;
- b) reviewing the programmes of work of the Organization in the field of forestry and provide guidance for their implementation.

COFO works closely with six FAO Regional Forestry Commissions (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America), which also serve as a platform for regional dialogue of global policy matters. In turn, the Commissions provide recommendations for the agenda of the Committee and for the programme priorities for FAO. COFO and the Regional Forestry Commissions represent a concrete example of global-regional policy dialogue and programme coordination.

When at its 23rd Session in 2016 COFO reviewed forests' and sustainable forest management's contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement it also made recommendations for future work on these areas including clarifying these contributions further and considering ways and means for accelerating progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed goals and objectives. COFO also recommended that input be prepared to the 2018 HLPF review as they relate to forests and forestry.

On this basis FAO devoted the 2018 edition of the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) to clarifying and quantifying the contribution of forests to the SDGs and recommend intervention areas that can lead to the transformational change needed to realize the full potential of forests as efficient contributors to the achievement of the SDGs. It is recommended that SOFO be launched before the start of this year's HLPF in New York. Further, in collaboration with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (which FAO chairs), FAO hosted an international conference on working across sectors to halt deforestation and increase forest area. The conference intended to support the implementation of SDG target 15.2 and the



UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, in particular Global Forest Goal 1 on halting deforestation and increasing the global forest cover by 3% by 2030. The outcome of this conference will be taken to COFO, and before that, to the United Nations Forum on Forests for consideration for transmission to the HLPF. Furthermore, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) reviewed the role of forests in food security and nutrition and while making policy recommendations invited COFO and FAO's Committee on Agriculture to consider these for setting relevant policies.

Preparations are made also for COFO to discuss and urban and peri-urban forestry, in relation to SDG 11. Three of the six regional forestry commissions have discussed this matter in 2017 and recommended that global attention be paid to this issue.

Policy messages related to SDG 15

1. Progress towards SDG 15 (as well as related global goals and targets, including the Global Forest Goals of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, in particular Goal 1) can and should be accelerated. This requires urgent action now. Best practices and tools are available but their application must be promoted.
2. Sustainable agriculture needs healthy and productive forests. Legal, inclusive and sustainable value chains in agriculture and forestry that prevent deforestation and degradation should be promoted and upscaled. The role of forests and trees in achieving food security and nutrition should be strengthened in its four dimensions (access, availability, utilization, stability) including by taking into consideration the specific recommendations of the CFS, directly linking SDG15 and SDG2.
3. Forest-smart policies and governance are needed where the economic and social value of forests in development planning and funding allocations is recognized, based on cross-sectoral policy coordination on land use.
4. Civil society and particularly youth should be empowered as agents of change for realizing the full value of forests and halting and reversing deforestation.
5. Progress requires developing technical and business capacity of all stakeholders therefore forestry education at all levels and education of consumers of forest products about sustainability should be strengthened.

Policy messages related to SDG 11

1. Sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests and trees and their integration in urban planning, is essential for achieving the SDGs, ensuring people's health and well-being and tackling climate change.
2. To deliver all benefits, urban forests require adequate governance through inclusive policies, clear norms and sound planning, with the involvement of various stakeholders such as national forest services, municipalities, government offices, community organizations and urban residents, as well as a mix of public and private funding and citizen involvement.



Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, leaving no one behind: recommendations of the Committee on Forestry

SDG 15

Accelerating progress:

While forests continue to be lost, the world's population keeps growing and many countries are experiencing rising per capita incomes. These trends are accelerating global demand for forest products and services, as well as for food and agricultural products, which is the single greatest driver of deforestation globally. With global population projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, forests and their multiple benefits need to be safeguarded. The demand for wood alone is expected to triple to 10 billion cubic meters. Integrated landscape management approaches center on people, communities and ecosystems at scale. They have the potential to tackle drivers of deforestation and land and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management (SFM) while meeting economic, social and environmental objectives. Land use competition between forests and agriculture can be solved when people's needs for forests, trees, water and agricultural activities are considered as a whole at scale.

Sustainable value chains:

Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Forests and trees, in their diversity of ecosystems and human perceptions and uses, contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition in numerous ways and at different levels. They also play a role as coping mechanisms in terms of shock and crises. As agriculture is the main driver of deforestation, commodity production should be intensified rather than expanding to new areas destroying forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems. At the same time the sustainable production and consumption of forest products as opposed to other non-renewable materials should be encouraged and awareness of consumers to reward sustainably produced products raised. Small scale producers will need secure tenure and should receive better access to finance, technical assistance, training and markets and Forest and Farm Producer Organizations should be strengthened. Sustainable value chains should be complemented by the development of systems for payments for ecosystem services of forests that can provide direct benefits to land owners and other service providers, and create momentum on the ground.

Forest-smart policies and governance:

Governments should consider the economic and social value of forests in development planning and funding allocations and strengthen cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination on land use. Secure and predictable land tenure arrangements will strengthen the contribution and engagement of the private sector and local communities therefore regulation of land-use change, transparency in land deals, protection of local and customary rights, enforcement of safeguards, and monitoring is needed to encourage investments and encourage their positive social and environmental impacts of. At the same time, perverse incentives to clear forests should be removed. Integrated approaches to finance are needed, working with several investment partners, including corporate private sector and small-scale producers, combining forest protection and conservation with commodity production.

Empowering civil society:

Stakeholders, including a wide range of actors within and outside government, across sectors and scales and along value chains, especially forest owners, farmers, small holders, indigenous and local



communities, women and youth, as well as small, medium and large forest and agriculture-based enterprises and companies can act as agents of change for finding and implementing solutions to deforestation and forest degradation through their different but complementary roles. Public and private actors should fully tap into the potential of civil society, particularly women and youth. Youth can facilitate collective action, engagement, innovation, capacity building, networking and partnerships, as well as providing a long-term perspective

SDG 11

The role of urban forests:

Through their provisioning, supporting, regulating as well as cultural and additional socio-economic benefits well-managed urban and peri-urban forests provide ecosystem goods and services and can help local administrations respond to the needs of growing urban populations. They provide source of energy and food, prevent erosion and soil degradation, act as wind breaks, protect biodiversity, regulate water cycles and temperatures, filter air and sequester carbon dioxide, contribute to feeling of community and well-being and provide employment and income. (It is estimated that in the US alone urban forests and trees provide services in the amount of USD18.6 billion annually.)

Proper governance:

Planning departments should have adequate mechanisms to acquire the technical skills and knowledge needed to include urban forestry aspects in the overall planning processes. Efficient governance requires low level of fragmentation, involvement of various stakeholders such as national forest services, municipalities, government offices, community organizations and urban residents in the decision-making process. The involvement of citizens in planning, design and management processes can bring many benefits. Increased awareness of the goods and services provided by urban forests could help address the lack of funds for urban greening programmes, which should ideally be financed from a mix of public and private sources. Effective governance requires policies and legislation aimed at harmonizing the range of interests and strengthening urban-rural linkages through adequate investments in infrastructure, particularly transportation, to improve rural productivity while allowing access to markets, jobs and public services, and should be supported by sound research.



Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

The role of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

The two main functions of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) are to review and guide the programmes of work of FAO in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation, and to conduct periodic reviews of global issues in the field of fisheries and aquaculture with a view to developing concerted action by nations, inter-governmental bodies and civil society. COFI is also a forum in which global agreements and non-binding instruments are negotiated to address identified fisheries and aquaculture issues. COFI also reviews and decides on the recommendations of its two COFI Sub-Committees on fish trade and aquaculture, respectively.

During the 32nd Session of COFI held in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016, there were three areas where “resilience” was specifically identified in the context of (1) Fish trade and building resilience along the value chain, (2) Climate change and (3) Blue Growth Initiative (BGI). The relevant documents prepared for COFI presented FAO’s work in each context as follows:

(1) Fish trade and building resilience along the value chain

Noting the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade considered that fish consumption should play a more prominent role in responses to disasters and in prevention strategies in order to tackle food insecurity and micronutrient deficiencies, especially where fish is part of the traditional diet or where it is acceptable and locally accessible. In recognition of the nutritional benefits of fish, the Sub-Committee recommended the inclusion of climate change and disaster issues in the development of fisheries trade policies to influence development strategies and investment.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the important role of FAO in providing guidance and training to respond to emergencies that affect the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, particularly for the small-scale fishers and producers along the value chain and in line with the concept of “building back better” and sustainability principles.

The Sub-Committee noted that there is no common definition of resilience within the UN system. The Sub-Committee highlighted the importance of providing technical assistance at all levels to increase the capacity to respond to natural and man-made disasters in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

(2) Climate change

FAO is working towards enhancing the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods and ecosystems. FAO seeks to develop the capacity of communities and institutions around four pillars, as follows:

- “Enable the Environment” – FAO assists member countries and partners in identifying climate-related vulnerabilities and disaster risks specific to inland and marine fisheries and aquaculture, in order to better inform policy makers, facilitate investments and access to funds and develop appropriate strategies, including disaster risk reduction and management.



- "Watch to safeguard" – FAO is developing guidelines on the use of “spatial technology”, such as satellite remote sensing for disaster assessment and emergency preparedness for aquaculture.

- "Apply risk and vulnerability reduction measures" – This is done through the development of innovative financial instruments for risk and crises management in fisheries and aquaculture, the improvement of the efficiency of the seafood value chains and the promotion of responsible and sustainable management for fisheries and aquaculture following an ecosystem approach to fisheries and to aquaculture. FAO is also developing a micronutrient rich fish based by product that can be used to increase nutrition in an emergency context.

- "Prepare and respond" – FAO has completed a ‘Fisheries and Aquaculture Emergency

Response Guidance’ including a training package to develop national and regional capacity and enhance the quality and accountability of response to emergencies affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sector along the value chain. FAO continues to provide response to emergencies affecting the fisheries and aquaculture.

The resilience work of FAO is aligned and builds on the 2015 Sendai Framework for DRR, the UNFCCC and recent Paris Agreement (and the UN SG Climate Resilience Initiative A2R), internationally agreed fisheries instruments. It contributes to attaining the SDGs, in particular SDG 1 (to end poverty), SDG 2 (to end hunger), SDG 13 (to combat climate change and its impacts) and SDG 14 (on oceans). Based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (“Sendai Framework”) FAO is currently working with the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction to expand this indicator to also include fisheries and forestry and to cover indirect loss (in addition to direct loss).

(3) Blue Growth Initiative (BGI)

FAO focuses and delivers its integrated work on fisheries and aquaculture through the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI), with its four streams of work, namely support of food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, sustainable management of living aquatic resources and resilience in the context of the SDGs, based on FAO’s Strategic Objectives including food security (Strategic Objective 1), conservation, sustainable management and use of aquatic resources (SO2), poverty reduction (SO3), inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems (SO4), and resilience (SO5).

2. Key policy messages and recommendations of COFI for HLPF consideration

a) As referred in Paragraphs 32, 146 and 151 of the Report of the 32nd Session of COFI¹,

32. The Committee emphasized the importance of resilience throughout the seafood value chain especially for the small-scale sector and vulnerable coastal States and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the face of natural disasters and climate change.

146. The Committee supported FAO’s definition of resilience with particular reference to

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6882e.pdf>



climate change, and expressed appreciation for the work of FAO on resilience and called on FAO to continue to support capacity development programmes aimed at strengthening resilience and disaster relief.

151. The Committee reiterated its support for the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI), with its four streams of work, as the mean to focus the work of FAO on fisheries and aquaculture in support of food security and nutrition, poverty reduction, sustainable management of living aquatic resources and resilience in the context of the SDGs.

- b) The Ninth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, held in Rome from 24 to 27 October 2017, discussed the 2030 Agenda, SDGs and FAOs Common Vision for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, addressing, *inter alia*, targets in SDG 6 and, in particular, SDG 12. The Sub-Committee recommended that FAO develop guidelines for sustainable aquaculture by integrating lessons learned from successful aquaculture developments worldwide. The Sub-Committee also debated climate change and resilience and noted the importance of risk management, including assessment, and resilience. Members identified specific threats, such as climate change and extreme weather events, introduced species and new diseases, socio-economic issues and conflicts of uses. The Sub-Committee further stated that Climate-Smart approaches for building resilience and strategies for disaster risk reduction are important to combat the effects of climate change.
- c) The Sixteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, held in Busan, the Republic of Korea, from 4 to 8 September 2017, also had a full agenda item on reduction of fish food loss and waste, which is highly relevant for SDG 12.



FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG)

The role of the FAO Committee on Agriculture

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s main technical advisory body providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management. COAG has always played an important role in guiding FAO, and has provided strategic advice on many of the challenges FAO has faced in assisting its Member Countries achieve the 2030 agenda including sustainable production intensification and sustainable consumption (SDG12), family farming (SDG-1-2), strategies and actions to reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG-15), gender (SDG5), food security and improved nutrition (SDG-2), food loss and waste reduction (SDG-12), transboundary pests and diseases, climate change (SDG-13), the sustainable management and integration of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (SDG-15), and many other issues.

The 25th session of COAG which took place in Rome from 26-30 September 2016, reviewed several matters requiring the attention of FAO Council and Conference and Member Countries. A number of policy recommendations were made. The following key messages/recommendations are brought to the attention of the HLPF for consideration:

Key messages

- The number of undernourished people on the planet has increased to 815 million, up from 777 million in 2015. COAG recommended strengthening global work on sustainable food systems in relation with the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP), as well as on nutrition, and endorsed the sustainable nutrition sensitive agriculture approach.
- Acknowledging the importance of biodiversity in sustainable development including its vital role for resilient and sustainable ecosystems, the Committee :
 - (1) requested FAO and governments to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture to promote its contribution to food and nutrition, ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - (2) encouraged countries and regions to take actions on exploring and conserving good ecosystems such as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems(GIAHS) to maintain significant agricultural biodiversity and protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
- The Committee encouraged countries to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, as well as enhancing collaboration and coordination between Forestry and Agriculture;



and called for strengthening the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to promote and integrate nutrition into agriculture management and training programmes to ensure sustainable consumption (SDG-12) as an essential element in reducing malnutrition particularly in rural areas.

Policy recommendations for HLPF consideration

- In addition to providing sustenance, fibre and fuel, agriculture, together with the forestry and fisheries sectors, employs more than one in three of the world's workers, and provides livelihoods for rural households totaling 2.5 billion people. Past developments in agriculture have led to major improvements in productivity, not always fully addressing all dimensions of sustainability. Today, to feed a rapidly growing population, while respecting and sustainably managing natural resources, agriculture development should be mindful of all three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental. Investing in sustainable agriculture and food systems helps address interlinkages between SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 15.
- Over seventy percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as the main source of their livelihoods. Many of them are particularly vulnerable to increasing climate variability. Land degradation, floods, water scarcity, and transboundary pests and diseases affect the most vulnerable in a disproportionate way, and threaten the sustainability of agriculture systems alongside the loss of living resources and biodiversity. **Building resilience and providing means for sustainable development at national and community levels would be essential to achieve sustainable development and leave no one behind.**
- As per COAG recommendations, to leave no one behind, it is important to recognize the critical role as agents of change of smallholders, family farmers, youth, rural women, herders, fisher folks and indigenous people and by strengthening the engagement of the rural sector in national development strategies in order to contribute to enabling transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, leaving no one behind: recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture

- **Agriculture and the 2030 Agenda** – Promote more integrated approaches across agriculture, forestry and fisheries, food systems, institutions and policies. Cross sectoral collaboration and coordination are essential to address sustainable development in all its dimensions. It is important to promote international cooperation for a stronger and more effective contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the 2030 Agenda.



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- **Climate change:** In order to build resilience and reduce the negative impact of climate change in member countries and globally, and in line with the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, provide the necessary consistent data and information systems and integrated cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including addressing the adaptation needs and mitigation potential of agriculture as identified in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- **Agricultural Innovation and the 2030 Agenda:** agricultural innovation is crucial in achieving sustainable food security and rural development, particularly for addressing the challenges of employment for youth and rural women to alleviate rural poverty.



FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)

The role of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems

The mandate of FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) is twofold: i) keep under review commodity problems of an international character that affect production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters; and ii) prepare and make available to the Members a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation. The CCP also makes recommendations on issues arising from its deliberations.

The work of the CC is pertinent to a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular to Goals 1, 2, 8, 12, 13 and 17, as well as the intersection among the various SDGs.

Key Messages

1. Transparent and well-functioning food and agricultural markets are essential for ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- a) Monitoring and assessment of world commodity markets and the availability of up-to-date data and information are critical for global food security. Timely and reliable information, made available to all concerned actors, enhance market transparency, reduce price volatility and inform policy decisions.
- b) Government and other stakeholders are urged to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of the supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities and to make the results publicly available in a timely manner, to improve market transparency and the coordination of response.
- c) Governments are encouraged to carefully consider the consequences of any action that could disrupt commodity markets and trade flows and propel price volatility.

2. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system is essential for promoting agricultural development and food security.

Trade is one of the key means of implementation of the SDGs, with trade-related targets specified under several SDGs (2, 8, 10, 14 and 17), requiring progressively integrated and cross-cutting approaches at global, regional and national levels.

- a) Reaching a comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round is highly important given its potential contribution to agriculture and creating an enabling



environment for development and food security, and to responding to excessive price volatility.

- b) There is a need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition.
- c) CCP requested that further assistance be provided to developing countries to engage better in regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes, to ensure that these processes are coherent with, and supportive of, countries' pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process. It was also recommended that assistance be provided to facilitate policy dialogue for improving alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade frameworks and policies.
- d) Improved market access to commodities from developing countries is important as a way to enhance food security and income-generating objectives of these countries.

3. The integration of smallholders, family farmers and vulnerable producers into markets and value chains is crucially important to ensure that no one is left behind.

- It is important to develop policies and strategies to support smallholders' integration into markets and value chains. Globally more than 80 percent of smallholders operate in local and domestic markets. Efforts to increase the productivity of smallholder and family farmers to ensure inclusive, gender equitable rural and agricultural development would only have limited impact if linkages to markets and value chains were not strengthened simultaneously.
- There is a critical need for more and better agricultural investment, in particular towards smallholder producers in developing countries. Investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure is crucial for increasing farmers' productivity and integration into markets and strengthening their resilience. It is important for the investment to be responsible in order to be sustainable and benefit those that need it the most.

4. There is a need to continue assisting countries and addressing the knowledge gaps on the impacts of climate change to promote more sustainable and resilient agricultural and food systems.

- a) Climate change is expected to cause more extreme weather events, which would contribute to more frequent and more significant price swings. This could particularly affect the incomes and livelihoods of small producers, posing more severe challenges to developing countries.
- b) CCP stressed the importance of assisting countries, upon their request, to strengthen institutional frameworks and processes and develop technical capacity to promote



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sustainable agriculture and integrated cross-sectoral approaches to climate change, including addressing the adaptation needs and mitigation potential of agriculture as identified by countries in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

- c) Collaboration is encouraged to address, in an objective manner, the knowledge gaps on the interface between climate change, trade, commodity markets and food security, and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessments of climate change on commodity trade at the country level.



International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are essential for countries to ensure food security, promote sustainable agriculture and adapt to climate change. In order to provide an effective policy response to these interlinked global challenges, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) established the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System) to facilitate the exchange of plant genetic resources for agricultural research and breeding. Under the Multilateral System, countries grant each other facilitated access to plant genetic resources, while users of genetic material are either obliged or encouraged to share the benefits arising from their utilization.

The Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its Seventh Session, held in November 2017, adopted a resolution on the contribution of the International Treaty to the 2030 Agenda.² Emphasizing that the effective implementation of the Treaty contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in particular Targets 2.5 and 15.6 relating to conservation, and access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, it called upon countries to mainstream the management of plant genetic diversity into their national development strategies and programmes. **Effective implementation of the International Treaty would contribute to sustainable agricultural production through fair use and effective management of crop diversity.**

Recognizing the enormous contribution that farmers make through the maintenance of resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, the Governing Body also emphasized the need to focus on the needs of the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind in the implementation of the International Treaty. The Treaty provides for the protection of the traditional knowledge of farmers, increasing their participation in national decision-making processes and ensuring that they share in the benefits from the use of these resources.

² Resolution 1/2017 Contribution of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

The role of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is the only intergovernmental body that specifically addresses all components of biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture. The Commission strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation, sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. It also addresses cross-cutting topics such as climate change, biotechnologies, access and benefit sharing, nutrition and health with a view to ensure the conservation and use of genetic resources to benefit of all. The Commission's policy instruments stress the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for smallholders, rural development and income generation.

The Commission oversees country-driven global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture and is currently in the process of finalizing the first report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the first report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. The latter report holistically addresses this biodiversity across crop and livestock agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels that sustain the ecosystem structures, functions and processes in and around production systems, and provide food and non-food agricultural products as a basis of food security and livelihoods. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* also addresses the role of biodiversity for food and agriculture to resilience. A Commission [Special Event in 2017](#) raised awareness about this important role.

The global assessments provide the basis for the development of policies such as Global Plans of Action for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. In support of SDG 17, capacity development, partnerships and resource mobilization are integral components of all Global Plans of Action.

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are essential for achieving other commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those related to economic and social priorities. Genetic resources are the raw materials that local communities, breeders and researchers rely upon to improve the quality and output of food production. Breeding and accompanying management improvements contributed to increasing production efficiency, while an increased value of genetic resources can support conservation. The Commission has thus developed *Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*³.

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, leaving no one behind: recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

³ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix B*.



The Fortieth Session of the FAO Conference adopted Resolution 4/2017 *The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Contribution to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals* recognizing the Commission as an important partner in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Target 2.5, related to genetic diversity.⁴ The Resolution also invites Members to ‘Mainstream biodiversity for food and agriculture into policies, programmes and national and regional plans of action on agriculture, climate change, food security and nutrition and other relevant sectors’.

With regard to SDG Target 15.2, *The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources* highlighted the importance of genetic resources of trees and other woody plant species for sustainable forest management, as well as for restoring degraded forests and increasing reforestation. The *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* stresses the need to reinforce national tree seed programmes to ensure the availability of reproductive material, and to promote appropriate use of this material in forest restoration and reforestation. It also urges strengthening the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the conservation of forest genetic resources. Forest management by indigenous and local communities has been shown to be one of the most effective means of combining conservation with poverty alleviation. The relevance of locally adapted genetic resources for the restoration of degraded lands has also been recognized in the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

The *Second Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* summarizes positive developments in conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives and wild food plants worldwide, including an expansion of protected areas. In this context, the Commission endorsed ‘*Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants*’ and FAO is currently developing a concept for a global network of *in situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture inside and outside of formal protected areas.

Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change are crucial elements of resilience. In this context, the Commission invited countries to integrate diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture into national climate change planning, addressing their potential for adaptation to climate change and for climate change mitigation, including in line with their respective nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans⁵ and to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*⁶.

With regard to SDG Target 15.6, the Commission, at its Sixteenth Session, agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the *Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*⁷ (ABS Elements), the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA,

⁴ C 2017/REP

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 30

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/290cd085-98f3-43df-99a9-250cec270867/>

⁷ CGRFA-15/15/Report, Appendix B.



to complement the ABS Elements⁸. An International Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing was organized by the Secretariat of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity⁹, to assist countries to identify and raise awareness of distinctive features and specific practices of subsectors of GRFA in the context of the ABS Elements.

Key policy messages and recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for HLPF consideration

- continue raising awareness on the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of climate change and promote the mainstreaming of these resources into climate change-related programmes and policies, including at national and regional levels¹⁰;
- strengthen the contribution of locally adapted genetic resources for food and agriculture the restoration of degraded lands and forests;
- reinforce national tree seed programmes to ensure the availability of reproductive material, and promote appropriate use of this material in forest restoration and reforestation;
- strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to *in situ* conservation of forest genetic resources and crop wild relatives;
- strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the conservation of genetic resources;
- strengthen access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and sharing the benefits arising from their use, taking into consideration the distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the interdependence of countries with regard to these resources.

⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 25 iii

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/abs/en/>

¹⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraph 28



Annex II: Membership of FAO

194 Member Nations, one member organization, and two associate members, as listed below

Members

Afghanistan

Albania

Algeria

Andorra

Angola

Antigua and Barbuda

Argentina

Armenia

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bahamas

Bahrain

Bangladesh

Barbados

Belarus

Belgium

Belize

Benin

Bhutan

Bolivia, Plurinational State of

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Botswana

Brazil

Brunei Darussalam

Bulgaria

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Cambodia

Cameroon

Canada

Cape Verde

Central African Republic

Chad

Chile

China



Colombia

Comoros

Congo

Cook Islands

Costa Rica

Côte d'Ivoire

Croatia

Cuba

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Denmark

Djibouti

Dominica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Egypt

El Salvador

Equatorial Guinea

Eritrea

Estonia

Ethiopia

European Union - Member
Organization

Fiji

Finland

France

Gabon

Gambia

Georgia

Germany

Ghana

Greece

Grenada

Guatemala

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Guyana

Haiti

Honduras

Hungary

Iceland

India

Indonesia

Iran, Islamic Republic of

Iraq



Ireland

Israel

Italy

Jamaica

Japan

Jordan

Kazakhstan

Kenya

Kiribati

Kuwait

Kyrgyzstan

Lao, People's Democratic Republic

Latvia

Lebanon

Lesotho

Liberia

Libya

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Madagascar

Malawi

Malaysia

Maldives

Mali

Malta

Marshall Islands

Mauritania

Mauritius

Mexico

Micronesia, Federated States of

Moldova, Republic of

Monaco

Mongolia

Montenegro

Morocco

Mozambique

Myanmar

Namibia

Nauru

Nepal

Netherlands

New Zealand

Nicaragua

Niger

Nigeria

Niue



Norway

Oman

Pakistan

Palau

Panama

Papua New Guinea

Paraguay

Peru

Philippines

Poland

Portugal

Qatar

Republic of Korea

Romania

Russian Federation

Rwanda

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Samoa

San Marino

Sao Tome and Principe

Saudi Arabia

Senegal

Serbia

Seychelles

Sierra Leone

Singapore

Slovakia

Slovenia

Solomon Islands

Somalia

South Africa

South Sudan

Spain

Sri Lanka

Sudan

Suriname

Swaziland

Sweden

Switzerland

Syrian Arab Republic

Tajikistan

Thailand

The former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia

Timor-Leste



Togo

Tonga

Trinidad and Tobago

Tunisia

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Tuvalu

Uganda

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United Republic of Tanzania

United States of America

Uruguay

Uzbekistan

Vanuatu

Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

Viet Nam

Yemen

Zambia

Zimbabwe



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Associate Members

Faroe Islands

Tokelau